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# Trump criticizes top U.S. allies over war



A plume of smoke rises after a strike on Tehran, Iran, on March 3. Secretary of State Marco Rubio predicted "the hardest hits are yet to come" against Iran. ATTA KENARE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## Israel didn't force timing of attacks, president says

Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmggaard, Michael Collins, Rebecca Morin and Medora Lee

USA TODAY

President Donald Trump slammed top U.S. allies, including the United Kingdom, as the war with Iran expands and warned Americans that they may have to deal with "a little high" oil prices as crude costs soared and the stock market tumbled.

"If we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends those prices are gonna drop, I believe lower than even before," Trump said after taking questions from reporters in the Oval Office for the first time since the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran began.

U.S. and Israeli military forces attacked Iran on Feb. 28, killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Officials from the United States and Israel said they have

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German Chancellor Friedrich Merz indicated he wouldn't admonish President Donald Trump over the war in Iran. SUZANNE PLUNKETT/POOL VIA REUTERS

## Wisconsin Guard involved in Iran strikes

### Top Pentagon general praises reserves' role

Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON – Wisconsin Army National Guard troops are stationed in the Middle East providing key operations to the U.S. strikes on Iran, the Pentagon's top general said Monday.

Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, cited the Badger State's troops' role in a news conference on March 2 detailing the strikes on Iran.

Caine said the operations began Saturday with a "massive, overwhelming" strike that involved thousands of American servicemembers, hundreds of planes and two aircraft carriers, and hit more than a thousand targets across the country.

"The integrated reserve and National Guard forces have continued to demonstrate the value of America's reserve forces, including the Wisconsin Army National Guard operating in Kuwait and Iraq and Air National Guard units from Vermont and Virginia," he told reporters.

The military received its "final go order" from President Donald Trump a day earlier on Friday, Feb. 27, Caine said.

Trump's message to troops: "Operation Epic Fury is approved. No aborts. Good luck," Caine said, using the Pentagon's operational name for the attack.

A spokeswoman for the Wisconsin National Guard confirmed the troops' participation in the operation but did not provide other details, including

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### Inside

Strike on school questioned. **9A**

Oct. 7 led Israel to target Iran leader. **10A**

# Gov. Evers calls for special session to ban partisan gerrymandering in state

Jessie Opoien and Molly Beck

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON – Gov. Tony Evers signed an executive order March 3 calling lawmakers into a special session next month to permanently ban partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin.

The Democratic governor's order

calls the Legislature in on April 14 to pass a constitutional amendment barring the use of partisan gerrymandering in the state's redistricting process.

But it's unclear whether legislative leaders – including those in his own party – will agree. Republican leaders were cool to the idea after Evers announced it during his recent State of the State address, and just a couple of Democratic

lawmakers applauded the idea that night.

Legislative leaders were noncommittal in statements responding to the governor's announcement.

On Tuesday, neither Democratic legislative leader appeared with Evers at his news conference at the state Capitol

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Gov. Tony Evers signed an executive order March 3 calling lawmakers into a special session to permanently ban partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin. JESSIE OPOIEN/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

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