

# U.S. attack on Iran included B-2 bomber planes from Missouri base

BY ILANA AROUGHETI  
iarougheti@kcstar.com

Several of the bomber planes which carried out attacks on three nuclear sites in Iran Saturday came from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, including the aircraft responsible for dropping “bunker bombs” on the strike’s primary target, state and national leaders confirmed Saturday night and Sunday morning.

President Donald Trump announced Saturday evening on social media that the U.S. military had struck three nuclear facilities in Iran. The attacks took place around 2:30 a.m. Sunday local time in Iran, according to the New York Times.

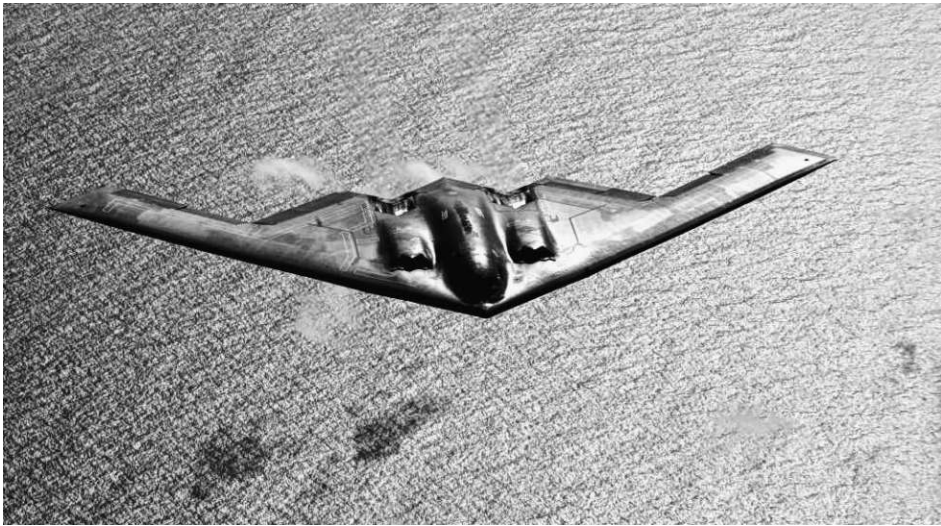
“We have completed our very successful attack on the three nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz and Eshafan,” Trump said in a Truth Social post at 6:50 p.m. EDT.

Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in a Sunday morning briefing from the Pentagon that this weekend’s bombing was the “largest B-2 operational strike in U.S. history”, CBS News and the Associated Press reported.

Caine said that seven B-2 Spirit stealth bomber planes flew 18 hours from Missouri to Iran to carry out the strike. According to a graphic released Sunday morning by the Pentagon, the bombers left Whiteman at 12:01 a.m. EDT on Saturday and entered Iranian airspace with other military aircraft at 6 p.m. EDT. Caine said that a total of 125 planes were involved in the attack, the BBC reported.

The fleet dropped bombs on the three nuclear sites between 6:40 and 7 p.m. EDT and left Iranian airspace at 7:30, according to the Pentagon. All seven B-2s involved in the strike had returned to Whiteman as of Sunday morning, according to the Pentagon.

In messages shared on social media Saturday evening, Trump referred to Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant, a uranium enrich-



A B-2 Spirit from Whiteman Air Force Base flies over the Pacific Ocean during a mission exercise from Guam.

ment plant concealed in a mountain about 100 miles south of Tehran, as the U.S. fleet’s primary target.

During Sunday’s Pentagon briefing, Caine said that the seven B-2 bombers released 14 GBU-57 “bunker-buster” bombs on the Fordow plant. The 30,000-pound bombs work by penetrating deep below the surface of the Earth before detonating, and can be used to either destroy a target area or cause the structures supporting it to collapse.

Whiteman Air Force Base is located in Johnson County, Missouri, just south of Knob Noster, Missouri and about an hour and a half southeast of Kansas City. Whiteman has hosted the nation’s fleet of B-2 Spirit stealth bombers full-time since the first B-2 arrived in 1993, and is currently the only air force base from which the bombers can be launched, according to the base.

B-2 bombers are produced by Northrop Grumman and flown exclusively by Air Force personnel. The national fleet at Whiteman currently consists of 19 B-2 bombers, USA Today reported.

The website for Whiteman describes B-2 bombers as “stealth”, “multi-role” vehicles capable of dropping both traditional and nuclear munitions. Each plane holds two pilots, a smaller operating capacity than similar bomber planes flown from the base in the past.

The first B-2 bomber at Whiteman was delivered to

the base in 1993, according to the base. The Missouri-based fleet has been used in Operation Allied Force and Operation Enduring Freedom, with its first combat deployment taking place during Operation Iraqi Freedom and consisting of 49 separate flights and more than 1.5 million pounds of dropped munitions.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told reporters Sunday that the weekend’s strikes were “intentionally limited” to the three nuclear development sites, the Associated Press reported.

““The scope of this was intentionally limited, that’s the message that we’re sending, with the capabilities of the American military nearly unlimited,” the AP reported that Hegseth told reporters. “So Iran, in that sense, has a choice.”

### “Strength in pursuit of peace”

Several Kansas and Missouri politicians weighed in on the bombing Saturday night and Sunday morning in posts on X, formerly Twitter, offering praise for the strike team and those stationed at Whiteman in general.

“As the Congressman for Whiteman AFB, I’ve been saying for weeks that our airmen in the 509th bomber wing are ready, capable, and lethal,” U.S. Rep. Mark Alford wrote Saturday evening. “Tonight, they showed the world what they can do to protect American interests and keep our citizens safe.”

“Thank you to our brave American Air Force and their successful mission as no Americans were harmed,” Kansas Sen. Roger Marshall wrote Saturday evening. “We stand tall with President Trump who is protecting the world from a nuclear capable Iran.”

Missouri governor Mike Kehoe wrote that Missourians “strongly support” Trump’s actions against nuclear facilities in Iran.

“Tonight, President Trump and our brave military demonstrated the importance of strength in pursuit of peace,” Kehoe wrote.

In response to Saturday’s military strikes, Kansas City mayor Quinton Lucas released a statement urging Congress to pull back on potential further action.

“Having spent time recently with Missouri-based Air Force bomber pilots and crews, I am heartened all are safe,” Lucas wrote in a Sunday morning press release. “I pray now for the safety of all of our servicemen and women in the Middle East and around the world, which should involve Congressional review and authorization before we enter into another extended conflict in the Middle East.

Whiteman Air Force Base declined to speak directly with The Star Sunday morning.

Ilana Arougheti:  
913-608-9065,  
@ilana\_arougheti

nian nuclear facilities.

**Calls for peace:** After European foreign ministers met to discuss Iran, the European Union’s chief diplomat, Kaja Kallas, said that “the concerns of retaliation and this war escalating are huge.” The International Atomic Energy Agency held an emergency meeting in Vienna, where the head of the agency, Rafael Grossi, warned that “violence and destruction could reach unimaginable levels” if Iran, Israel and the United States do not find a path to diplomacy.

**The strikes:** Pentagon officials described a tightly choreographed operation that included B-2 bombers carrying 30,000-pound bunker-buster bombs and submarine-fired Tomahawk cruise missiles hitting a trio of sites in less than a half-hour. A senior U.S. official acknowledged that the attack on Fordo had not destroyed the heavily fortified site, but it had been severely damaged.

more murky, with senior officials conceding they did not know the fate of Iran’s stockpile of near-bomb-grade uranium.

Here’s what else to know:

**Possible response:** Trump’s decision to attack Iran, and Iran’s attacks Monday, dimmed hopes for a negotiated solution to end the fighting. While U.S. officials say that Iran has depleted its stockpile of medium-range missiles, the country still has an ample supply of other weapons, including rockets and drones, some of which would -- if employed -- give U.S. forces in the region only minutes of warning before an attack.

**Economic impact:** U.S. oil prices fell more than 4%, below \$71 a barrel, after Iran fired missiles at a U.S. military base in Qatar. Before the attack, investors appeared cautiously optimistic on Monday about the potential economic fallout from the U.S. strikes on three Ira-

## BIRTHDAYS: JUNE 24



Biographical information from June 24 is from Encyclopaedia Britannica. Explore more at [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com).  
**Lionel Messi**, Argentine-born football player (b. 1987).  
**Mindy Kaling**, American actress, comedian, and author (b. 1979).  
**Jack Dempsey**, American boxer (b. 1895).  
**Ambrose Bierce**, American author (b. 1842).  
**St. John of the Cross**, Spanish mystic (b. 1542).

## FROM PAGE 1A

# WORLD CUP

vents the change from going into full effect until the county can establish a central system for registering and reporting these properties.

## REVERSING PREVIOUS VALUATIONS

Some owners of former or current short-term rental properties have already received notices in the mail throughout June providing tax estimates for their homes as commercial property. These homeowners will be issued new estimates revaluing their homes as residential property, according to a statement issued this week by County Executive Frank White.

“We ask for (property owners’) patience as this process unfolds and will provide updated records online as they become available,” White wrote. In the meantime, Jackson County residents can check their 2022 and 2025 valuations for both real and personal property on a public portal launched online last week.

White noted that classifying short-term rentals as commercial property has been used at a state level in recent years to fight against predatory rental practices from out-of-state homeowners and, at times, preserve the availability of housing for residents to live in, whether through homeownership or renting long-term.

Residential tax rates are often lower, White wrote, so classifying any kind of rental property as residential instead of commercial can ease the financial burden on whoever owns the building in use — be it a private homeowner or a large corporation.

“Current law draws no distinction between a homeowner who rents their residence for a few days a year and an out-of-state corporation that purchases hundreds, or even thousands, of homes solely to operate them as short-term rentals,” White wrote.

The Jackson County ordinance, which was first

introduced on June 9, was sponsored by legislator Sean Smith. Smith represents Jackson County’s sixth district, which includes portions of Kansas City, Raytown, Lee’s Summit, Lone Jack, Lake Lotwana and Pleasant Hill.

## CITIES LIMIT SHORT-TERM RENTALS

The short-term rental market within Kansas City limits took a major hit in June 2023 when the Kansas City Council passed an ordinance requiring owners to register their short-term rental properties directly with the city, imposing an annual rental fee, a new short-term rental tax and a set of operational requirements.

The ordinance also blocks short-term rental properties within Kansas City from operating within a thousand feet of either a similar property or a long-term rental property.

At the time, the city cited concerns about large rowdy gatherings, as well as about increased ownership from out-of-state investors focused on short-term rentals, in effect removing much-needed residential housing from the local market.

Short-term rental properties are also heavily regulated or outright prohibited elsewhere in Jackson County, according to the Mid-America Regional Council. In Independence, all permits for new short-term rentals are reviewed by the city Planning Commission, while short-term rentals require a business license in Buckner and Lee’s Summit.

The city of Belton does not allow short-term rentals at all, according to MARC, and in Lake Tapawingo, short-term rentals are banned in areas zoned for single-family residential living — though the ban is based on a classification of short-term rentals as commercial property.

Ilana Arougheti:  
913-608-9065,  
@ilana\_arougheti



EMILY CURIEL ecuriel@kcstar.com

A swarm of soccer fans celebrated when Kansas City was announced as host city for a FIFA World Cup 2026 Thursday at Power and Light District.

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

See an error or another problem with content in this edition? Report it by calling 1-888-905-2036.

## THE KANSAS CITY STAR

290-240 (ISSN 0745-1067)

### WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTION PUBLISHED RATES

Sunday-Friday	\$34.99/week*
Sunday only	\$34.99/week*
Wednesday/Sunday	\$34.99/week*

**Single-copy rates:** Daily \$3\*, Sunday \$5.99\*, Special Editions \$7.99\*/\$9.99\*. **Digital only, including Edition:** \$34.99 per week\*

\*plus applicable sales tax\*

Subscriptions renew automatically at the then-current rate (up to \$34.99/week) unless canceled. Payments are non-refundable and include applicable tax. Payments, credits, debits, and price changes may adjust your expiration date. A \$0.59 weekly supply-chain charge and a \$4.99 fee for mailed renewal bills apply. Home delivery includes the Thanksgiving Edition; premium fees of \$4.99 apply on 4/13, 6/22, 8/24, 10/19, and 11/27 and \$9.99 on 5/11, 12/7 in 2025, and on 4/26, 7/26, 9/27, 11/26, and 12/27 in 2026. Content delivery methods may vary, and print subscriptions may be substituted with digital editions. Rate change notices are sent 30 days before they take effect. To cancel, contact us 30 days before expiration at 1-877-962-7827 or at <https://kansascity.com/cancel> Cancellations take effect at the end of the current term. Additional Terms of Service apply at <https://www.kansascity.com/terms-of-service>

The Kansas City Star is published daily, except Saturday. 5151 Merriam Drive, Merriam, Kansas 66203 (by appointment only.) Periodicals Postage Paid at Kansas City, MO. (USPS 290-240.)

**Postmaster:** Send all UAA to CFS : NON-POSTAL & MILITARY FACILITIES: send address corrections to McClatchy 1601 Alhambra Blvd Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95816.

## Contact The Star

### Customer Service

Call toll-free 1-877-962-STAR (7827) or visit [kansascitystar.com/myaccount](https://kansascitystar.com/myaccount).

### Legals

Kathy Wilson, 817-390-7111, [kwilson@mcclatchy.com](mailto:kwilson@mcclatchy.com)

### Place a Classified Ad

816-234-4636 or online at [classifieds.kansascity.com](https://classifieds.kansascity.com)

### The Kansas City Star

Executive Editor  
**Greg Farmer**  
816-234-4321 | [gfarmer@kcstar.com](mailto:gfarmer@kcstar.com)

Vice President, Opinion Editor  
**Yvette Walker**  
816-234-4079 | [ywalker@kcstar.com](mailto:ywalker@kcstar.com)

VP/Advertising  
**Stephanie Boggins**  
816-234-4069 | [sboggins@kcstar.com](mailto:sboggins@kcstar.com)

VP/Advertising Operations  
**Jane Howard**  
816-234-4896 | [jhoward@kcstar.com](mailto:jhoward@kcstar.com)