

Operation Midnight Hammer

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Operation Midnight Hammer Latest News

The operation that the US launched on Iran was named Operation Midnight Hammer, the Pentagon announced recently.

About Operation Midnight Hammer

- It is the codename for a covert **U.S.-led military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities** carried out around midnight on **June 21-22, 2025**.
- It aimed **to cripple Iran's nuclear program**.
- The coordinated assault **involved over 125 military aircraft**, including **B-2 stealth bombers**, the deployment of **14 GBU-57 bunker-buster bombs**, and more than 30 **Tomahawk missiles launched from US submarines** in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.
- This attack was the **first time** that the **United States used its largest bunker-busting bomb, the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP)**, in an operational conflict.
- **Targeted Sites:**

- The operation targeted two **uranium enrichment facilities at Fordow and Natanz** and **one facility at Isfahan**, which conducts several activities related to Iran's nuclear program.
- **Natanz and Fordow** are the **only operational enrichment facilities in Iran**.
- The US **attacked Natanz and Fordow with B-2 bombers equipped with MOPs** and only attacked **Isfahan with Tomahawk cruise missiles**.

Why is Fordow so important?

- **Located deep within a mountain** 29 kilometers north of the Iranian city of Qom, the Fordow uranium enrichment facility stands as a **highly protected and strategically central site within Iran's nuclear program**.
- Its subterranean placement provides significant **protection against potential aerial bombardment**, a design choice indicative of its critical role.
- The facility is approximately 54,000 square feet and is **believed to house 3,000 centrifuges**.
- **Under the terms of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran was explicitly prohibited from conducting enrichment activities at Fordow**.
- **However, following the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement** in 2018 during the first Trump administration, **Iran resumed enrichment activities at the site**.

Source: **TOI**

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