

"All the News  
That's Fit to Print"

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

**THE WEATHER**  
 Today, partly sunny, breezy, high 35.  
 Tonight, clear and moonlit, low 25.  
 Tomorrow, cloudy in the morning with afternoon and evening flurries, high 32. Weather map is on Page 28.

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00

## AFTER SEIZING MADURO, TRUMP SAYS U.S. WILL 'RUN' VENEZUELA



LUIS JAIMES/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

Venezuela's largest military complex after explosions in Caracas early Saturday during a strike by U.S. Special Operations forces.



TIERNEY L. CROSS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

On Saturday morning, President Trump offered no details on how the U.S. would oversee Venezuela, or for how long.



THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other U.S. strikes in Venezuela included one on an apartment building in Catia La Mar, leaving an 80-year-old woman dead.

## Inside Mission to Stalk Maduro, Learning His Routine and Room

This article is by Julian E. Barnes, Tyler Pager and Eric Schmitt.

WASHINGTON — In August, a clandestine team of C.I.A. officers slipped into Venezuela with a plan to collect information on Nicolás Maduro, the country's president, whom the Trump administration had labeled a narco-terrorist.

The C.I.A. team moved about Caracas, remaining undetected for months while it was in the country. The intelligence gath-

ered about the Venezuelan leader's daily movements — combined with a human source close to Mr. Maduro and a fleet of stealth drones flying secretly above — enabled the agency to map out minute details about his routines.

It was a highly dangerous mission. With the U.S. embassy closed, the C.I.A. officers could not operate under diplomatic cover.

But it was highly successful. Gen. Dan Caine, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at a news conference that because of the in-

### Managing Surprise and Cutting Off Escape

telligence gathered by the team, the United States knew where Mr. Maduro moved, what he ate and even what pets he kept.

That information was critical to the ensuing military operation — a predawn raid on Saturday by elite Army Delta Force commandos, the riskiest U.S. military op-

eration of its kind since members of the Navy's SEAL Team 6 killed Osama bin Laden in a safe house in Pakistan in 2011.

The result was a tactically precise, swiftly executed operation that extracted Mr. Maduro from his country with no loss of American life, a result heralded by President Trump amid larger questions about the legality and rationale for the U.S. actions.

Mr. Trump has justified what was named Operation Absolute

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