

**IRAN**

# Jets swoop over Tehran

**TEHRAN:** Wednesday (AAP-Reuter). — Iran's air force, on edge since last week's US incursion and a mid-air encounter with American jets yesterday, sent warplanes swooping low over Tehran early today in search of possible attackers.

An air force operations commander said the jets were called out after an unidentified flying object was spotted over a major

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military base in northwest Tehran.

At least four of the air force's American-built F14 Phantom fighter-bombers screamed over the city centre soon after midnight. The joint chief of staff's office broadcast a statement saying they were on routine patrol and there was no cause for concern.

The attack-scare brought reinforcements to the occupied US Embassy. A revolutionary guard

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cordon was thrown round the compound and adjacent streets were closed.

An air force statement acknowledged that the overflight

acknowledged that the overflight had caused fear among residents, who thought the planes might be part of a foreign invasion force.

The official Pars news agency quoted the first fighter base as saying a reconnaissance flight by the Phantoms had discovered nothing unusual but that the sus-

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pected incursion was still being investigated.

In the second incident, two US fighters buzzed an Iranian C130 transport aircraft over the Sea of Oman in international airspace.

According to the official Iranian version of the incident, Iranian jets were sent up to intercept

Iranian jets were sent up to intercept and escort the aircraft home. Iran said the Iranian craft was fired on, but this was denied in Washington.