

The US Drone: A Fact Sheet

Prominent Voices on Drones:

Farea Al-Muslimi, Yemeni Activist

"The drone strike and its impact tore my heart, much as the tragic bombings in Boston last week tore your hearts and also mine," he added. "What radicals had previously failed to achieve in my village... one drone strike accomplished in an instant: There is now an intense anger and growing hatred of America."

Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Hearing, 1/23/2013 (<http://bit.ly/12hFU4X>)

General Stanley McChrystal (ret.), Former ISAF commander in Afghanistan

"The resentment created by American use of unmanned strikes ... is much greater than the average American appreciates. They are hated on a visceral level, even by people who've never seen one or seen the effects of one."

"Retired general cautions against overuse of 'hated' drones," *Reuters*, 1/7/2013 (<http://reut.rs/UC8ry5>)

The Washington Post Editorial Board

"U.S. interests will be better served by greater disclosure, more political accountability, more checks and balances and more collaboration with allies. Drone strikes should...publicly disclosed and subject to congressional review."

"Pulling the U.S. drone war out of the shadows," *The Washington Post*, 11/1/2012 (<http://wapo.st/UmckLm>)

For more quotes, see: http://fcn.org/issues/afghanistan/questions_surfacing_drones/

Some Additional Considerations:

- ❑ A Global Hawk costs approximately \$30,000 per flight hour—on par with stealth fighter jets.
- ❑ Surveillance drones operated on the U.S.-Mexican border cost between \$2,500 and \$3,500 per flight hour.
- ❑ Each drone requires an hour of maintenance for every hour it spends in the air.
- ❑ Each Predator and Reaper drone (our most common strike drones) requires a team of 180 people to operate properly.
- ❑ The cost of producing a military drone ranges from \$100,000 to hundreds of millions of dollars.
- ❑ Over the next decade, the Pentagon plans to spend \$40 billion on medium-to-large sized drones.

Size of the U.S. Fleet:

Department of Defense

Military 637 drones

Air Force 737 drones

Navy 36 drones

Marine Corps 52 drones

Department of Homeland Security 9^A drones

Central Intelligence Agency 30^B drones

Unreported Drones 5,500 drones

Total estimate: 7,000+ drones



Photo credit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northrop_Grumman_RQ-4_Global_Hawk

United States Air Force Global Hawk Drone

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Deaths by Drone Strikes:

Country	Civilians Killed	"Militants"* Killed	Total Killed**
Pakistan	153-884	2,649-3,380	2,802-4,264
Somalia	0-15	7-27	7-42
Yemen	12-94	139-764	151-858
Total	165-993	2,795-4,171	2960-5164

- ❑ Drones are used for both surveillance and strike missions in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) and were used in Iraq (Operation New Dawn) and Libya (Operation Unified Protector). The U.S. Air Force does not report statistics for drone-related deaths separately.
- ❑ Strikes in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) terrorize local populations and disrupt community dynamics leading to greater poverty and dislocation.
- ❑ Drone operators suffer the same psychological wounds as their fellow service members. These wounds have resulted in the death by suicide of an estimated 2,000 current and former service members.

Resources on Drones:

For more information on the conduct, costs and scope of U.S. drones policy:

FCNL's overview of drones - <http://bit.ly/154qHsK>

The overall size of the U.S. drones fleet - <http://wapo.st/UmcKLM>

The Obama administration's decision-making process - <http://nyti.ms/JKRpYA>

Overview of the legal debate on drones - <http://bit.ly/SabY6x>

Overview of the strategic debate on drones - <http://on.cfr.org/13gavzN> , <http://bit.ly/Wha5rd>

For more information on the civilian deaths caused by targeted strikes:

The Long Bureau for Investigative Journalism's tally - <http://bit.ly/pnLj30>

Long War Journal's tally - <http://bit.ly/8gt6YP>

The New America Foundation's tally - <http://bit.ly/14leSYF>

For more information on the psychological impact of drone warfare:

Analysis based on interviews conducted in Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Area - <http://bit.ly/P9BpRr>

* The Obama administration and media outlets define "militants" as any male deemed of fighting age found in an area of interest. Many such "militants" might in fact be civilians.

**The difficulty of reporting and accounting for unrecorded strikes from these countries hinders 100% accuracy in these figures

A. As of April 2012

B. <http://wapo.st/qqEF2Q>

For more information, please contact:

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