

Where is **peace** hiding in Arizona?

Find out at the weekly meeting of the

## END THE WAR COALITION

Where: Grace Lutheran Church, 1124 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ in the Education Center (basement)

When: Every Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm

Questions: 480-894-2024 or [endthewarcoalition@cox.net](mailto:endthewarcoalition@cox.net)

### SEE YOU THERE!

**ACTION ALERT:** End the War Coalition needs your help to purchase educational DVDs, create banners and continue to initiate community actions to further the peace and justice movement in our local communities.

Please donate here: <http://endthewarcoalitioncontributions.tk/>

Do you want a deeper understanding of the US involvement with Afghanistan?  
Free, short documentaries!

[www.RethinkAfghanistan.com](http://www.RethinkAfghanistan.com)



Should the US government have a plan to get OUT of Afghanistan?  
Support Rep. James McGovern's bill HR2404 to develop one.

Two Arizona congressmen already support HR 2404.

Does YOUR Arizona Representative support it?

Find out at: [www.GetAPlan.tk](http://www.GetAPlan.tk)

## Cost of War in Afghanistan

See the cost to your community at [www.costofwar.com](http://www.costofwar.com)

# Waging long-distance war

By Adam Zoll and Rick Tuma | TRIBUNE GRAPHICS

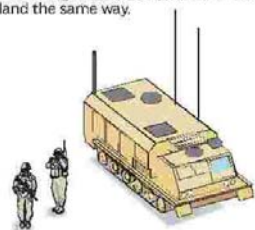
Monday's deadly airstrike in northwest Pakistan marks the latest example of U.S. forces' increasing reliance on unmanned aircraft, or drones, to target Al Qaeda and Taliban personnel in the region. These remotely-piloted planes, such as the Predator and the Reaper, play an important role in surveillance and targeting of enemy forces in Pakistan and have been used in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. The planes are guided remotely from command centers in the U.S. using technology that allows pilots on the other side of the world to control their actions, including firing missiles. These strikes have become controversial following incidents in which drone-fired missiles have killed non-combatants.

## Sample mission

An Air Force spokesman wouldn't discuss details regarding how drones are being used in Pakistan but gave the following account of how they are used in Afghanistan and Iraq, where they typically operate in support of ground troops and under orders of a commander in the field.

### 1 IN THE FIELD

The drone takes off from a base in Afghanistan and is controlled remotely from that location via line-of-sight radio contact. It will later land the same way.



### 2 TRANSFER OF CONTROL

After the drone becomes airborne, control is transferred to a U.S.-based ground control station. Many of these stations are operated from Creech Air Force Base, near Las Vegas.



### 3 COMMANDER'S ROLE

The commander in the field often has access to a live video feed from the drone and may decide whether to have the U.S.-based drone pilot fire a missile at a target. In about 20 percent of cases, however, video is unavailable, and the commander must rely on a visual description relayed from the U.S.-based pilot, the military spokesman said.



## At the controls

Inside a ground control station in the U.S., a pilot and sensor operator operate the drone. Drone pilots are certified to fly planes, while sensor operators need not be.

### Pilot

Operates flight controls and fires missiles.

Shows plane's planned route

Includes airspeed, altitude and other readings

Flight data in text form

Throttle Controls plane's propeller speed and flaps

Control stick For manual flight (Most of flight is on autopilot.)

Live feed of the positions of all ground and air forces on the battlefield

An example of the live video (B) feed available to the pilot and sensor operator



Sensor operator Assists pilot, operates lasers used for targeting. Same setup as pilot, with the following exception:

Controls for focusing and zooming plane's under-mounted camera on the target

Sensor operator

Pilot

Rudder pedals (not shown)

Telephones allow for communication with troops in the field via satellite or land line. Communication with other aircraft in the area of the drone is also available via secure radio.

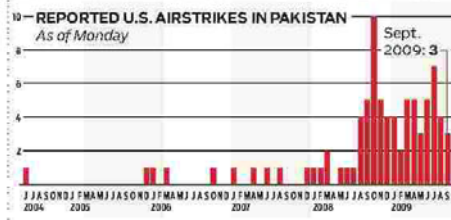
## Drone use in Pakistan

The CIA has been flying drones over tribal areas along Pakistan's northwestern border for years, and the U.S. military recently began doing so. The frequency of these strikes has risen sharply since last year, including an Aug. 5 strike that killed Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud. The map below shows reported U.S. airstrikes in the area since 2004.

KEY: X NUMBER OF STRIKES



Note: Locations of one strike in North Waziristan and three in South Waziristan are not available.



## MQ-1 Predator

Lasers and camera with infrared capability and night vision

Max. altitude: 25,000 feet

Length: 27 feet

Height: 6.9 feet

Wingspan: 48.7 feet

Weight: 1,130 pounds (empty)

Payload: 450 pounds

Top speed: 135 m.p.h.

Range: Up to 454 miles

Armament: Two laser-guided Hellfire missiles

Cost per plane: \$4.5 million  
Fleet: 116 planes, 35 of which can be airborne at any one time

Size comparison:



## MQ-9 Reaper

Max. altitude: 50,000 feet

Lasers and camera with infrared capability and night vision

Length: 36 feet

Height: 12.5 feet

Wingspan: 66 feet

Weight: 4,900 pounds (empty)

Payload: 3,750 pounds

Top speed: 250 m.p.h.

Range: Up to 3,682 miles

Armament: Can include Hellfire missiles and 500-pound laser-guided bombs

Cost per plane: \$17 million

Fleet: 28 planes