



Email Print
Home > Middle East > Persian Gulf



'US builds secret base in Persian Gulf'



A U.S. Predator unmanned drone armed with a missile

Wed Jun 15, 2011 4:12PM

Like 406
31

The United States is constructing a secret CIA airbase in the Persian Gulf in an attempt to expand Washington's deadly drone war in the region, a report says.

Withholding the exact location of the base at the request of US officials, Associated Press reported on Wednesday that Washington has decided to build the airbase following indications that an anti-American faction may take over Yemen and ban US forces from fighting against al-Qaeda there.

According to the report, the White House has also increased the number of CIA officers in Yemen and stepped up the schedule to construct the drone base, from a two-year timetable to a rushed eight months, following months of political deadlock in Yemen.

US officials have described the moves as precautionary measures taken to face the possibility of al-Qaeda or other anti-American rebel forces gain control of Yemen.

The top US military counterterrorism outfit, the Joint Special Operations Command, and the CIA claim that they have been fighting al-Qaeda elements in the country since 2009 under the permission of the Yemeni government.

The US forces have recently expanded strikes by US armed drones and even war planes.

Officials with Yemen's Defense Ministry have confirmed that the US has been launching drone strikes on a daily basis against the nation in June, with more than 15 confirmed strikes already in the very month.

The deputy governor of Abyan Province said at least 130 people, among them civilians, were killed in US drone attacks.

Analysts believe that Washington is using Yemen's chaos as a cover for the its drone campaign.

HMPKH/MGH



Share this article:
Send to friend Print this article

Related Stories:

[Yemenis urge ousting US, Saudi envoys](#)
[Yemenis call for swift transition of power](#)

[Yemenis give VP 24-hour ultimatum](#)

Comments

Add Comment [Click Here](#)

Loading ...

Latest From Middle East

- [Bahrain tries teenager over protests](#)
 - [Six Yemenis injured in US drone attack](#)
 - [Saleh to return to Yemen in days: Aide](#)
 - [Yemenis stage massive anti-US rallies](#)
 - [UK to be sued over Bahrain crackdown](#)
 - [Abbas asks EU to recognize Palestine](#)
 - [US asks Russia for UNSC action on Syria](#)
 - [Bahraini prince to wed Saudi princess](#)
 - [16 killed in Syria demos, activists say](#)
 - [Israeli troops cross into Lebanon](#)
 - [Bahrainis hold mass protest in Sitra](#)
 - [Bahraini cleric calls for real reform](#)
 - ['Yemeni president will not return home'](#)
- » See more articles

Poll

Following a lawsuit filed against UK and Bahraini officials over the brutal crackdown of the Bahraini people, the ICC and the UN...

- a) will refuse to investigate the case and hold trials
- b) will find Bahraini and British officials in question guilty
- c) will exonerate both Bahraini and British officials

SUBMIT

Follow Us

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Watch our videos](#)

[Follow our tweets](#)

Today Last Week Last Month

Most Read Most Commented

- [UK to be sued over Bahrain crackdown](#)
» Read more
- [Libya's Gaddafi vows to defeat NATO](#)
» Read more
- [US asks Russia for UNSC action on Syria](#)
» Read more
- [Pakistan censures US over airstrike](#)
» Read more
- [Bahraini prince to wed Saudi princess](#)
» Read more
- [Iran Navy rescues Pakistani vessel](#)
» Read more