



### [United States Carries Out Airstrikes Against Militia Group Facilities in Iraq and Syria](#)

Earlier this week, the United States carried out airstrikes against militia group facilities in Iraq and Syria accused of engaging in attacks on American personnel. This is the second such military action in the region initiated by the Biden administration since taking office earlier this year. The strikes killed several militia members and destroyed facilities that reportedly were designated for weapon storage or operational activities. The groups are believed to have launched a drone attack which resulted in American troop casualties, with a militia alliance in the region threatening to respond to the round of U.S. airstrikes. In addition to their drone attacks, the militia groups have also been accused of firing rockets at military bases and targeting convoys with deadly explosives. The developments in the preceding days mark a boiling over of hostilities, with the possibility of continued retaliations and attacks from both sides.

The latest U.S. airstrikes are the second of this kind by the Biden administration, following the ones back in February of this year. During those earlier airstrikes, the United States also targeted militia facilities, with the number of fatalities reaching 22. This attack had fewer casualties, but reinforces that the administration is willing to take part in retaliatory behavior when it deems that American personnel is at risk. There have been a series of attacks on American assets in the region, including through drone warfare and explosives. U.S. bases have been subjected to rockets and undetectable low flying drones armed with explosives that detonate upon contact, while convoys have also been targeted with improvised explosives. As a result, the Biden administration has argued that it is defending American lives by striking at these militia groups.

Some analysts point to the Iranian regime as a destabilizing entity in utilizing these groups to try and bolster its power and global influence. By offering its support with training and weapons, Iran aims to protect its interests through them. While the militia groups cannot perform the roles of a conventional military, they allow the ruling government to undermine its foes and potentially deter other nations from getting involved in various conflict zones. Thus, their use gives Iran a strong foothold in the region without the need for direct engagement, and also means that they have the capability of escalating circumstances when it is suitable.

Iran's foreign policy tactics and indirect attacks on its foes makes negotiations extremely challenging as well. The United States is currently attempting to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear treaty with Iran, and tensions like the ones brought about by this week's series of events make these efforts even harder to obtain. The Biden administration has to navigate the delicate balancing act between employing military force and relying on diplomatic processes when dealing with the Iranian regime. This can be very difficult at times, and requires a good sense of strategical analysis regarding the appropriate course of action to take based on the respective situation at hand.