

Compiled by Elayne Jude, Senior Research Associate, U K Defence Forum

The Guardian reported 7 June that 'drone use [is] likely to be curbed in coming months as program shifts from CIA to US military':

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jun/07/us-drone-strikes-dramatic-decrease>

and indeed it's been a fairly quiet June in both Afghanistan and Yemen; at least in terms of UAV strikes, if not in ground combat.

On the same day, The Guardian ran a story on an embryonic peace protest movement at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2013/jun/07/drones-waddington-protest-greenham-common>

UK warships are to be equipped with Scan Eagle, a new surveillance capability, part of a £30 million contract signed by MOD:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/royal-navys-new-eye-in-the-sky>

1 June - Yemen. The first strike in Yemen in 12 days killed eight "militants" in an attack on a convoy in the south.

Three missiles were launched at a convoy carrying AQAP fighters in the Al Mahfad area in the southern province of Abyan.

The target of today's strike was not disclosed. Eight members of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula were killed in the airstrike, and three more were wounded. No senior AQAP operatives or leaders are reported to have been killed.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula fighters and leaders have regrouped in the Al Mahfad area after being driven from cities such as Zinjibar, Jaar, Lawdar, and Shaqra during a Yemeni military offensive that began in the spring of 2012.

One other drone strike has been launched in Al Mahfad, on May 18.

June 7 - North Waziristan. Six "militants," including an unnamed "high value target," killed.

Two missiles were fired at a compound in the village of Mangroati in the Shawal area of the North Waziristan. The identity of the senior operative was later confirmed as Mutaqi and Bahadar Khan. Mutaqi and his fighters "were planning to cross over into Afghanistan via Pash Ziarat valley, a strategic corridor linking the South and North Waziristan Agency and considered a gateway to Afghanistan," according to Pakistani intelligence officials.

Today's strike is the first in Pakistan since the US killed Waliur Rehman, the deputy emir of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan and the group's leader in South Waziristan. It is also the first strike in Pakistan since Nawaz Sharif was sworn in as the country's prime minister. Sharif has repeatedly called for an end to drone strikes and is seeking to negotiate with the Taliban.

The Shawal Valley is a known haven for al Qaeda and other terror groups. Last year, 10 of the 46 drone strikes in Pakistan, or 22%, hit targets in the Shawal Valley.

June 9 - Yemen. An AQAP commander and five fighters were killed in a strike in northern Yemen, near the border with Saudi Arabia.

Several missiles were launched at two vehicles traveling in the Al Mahashma area in Al Jawf province. An AQAP commander known as Saleh Hassan Jredan or Hassan al Saleh Huraydan is reported to have been killed in the airstrike, along with his brother and four other fighters.

US drones have struck AQAP in Al Jawf three other times in the past. Two of the three strikes targeted top AQAP leaders. In September 2011, the US killed Anwar al Awlaki, and Samir Khan, both American. In January 2010, an airstrike targeted Qasim al Raymi, AQAP's top military commander. He and other senior AQAP officials survived the strike.

The last US drone attack in Al Jawf took place on Jan. 22.

June 21 - Afghan officials report Sheikh Dost Mohammed, the Taliban's shadow governor for Nuristan province, killed in a strike in Kunar province. The report of Dost Mohammed's death is the second so far this year.

<p>Dost Mohammed and two "guards" were supposedly killed in Kunar's Ghaziabad district, Nuristan governor.</p> <p>ISAF did not confirm a strike took place in Kunar, but it is possible that the CIA carried out a strike.</p> <p>The Taliban have not commented on the reports of Dost Mohammed's death. Dost Mohammed has been reported killed numerous times since 2009, and the latest report about his death should be viewed with caution.</p>