

# New Figures: Almost 1,500 US/UK Drone Strikes in Afghanistan Since 2009

By [Global Research News](#)

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New information about the number of US drone strikes in Afghanistan has been revealed by [DangerRoom, the national security blog at Wired.com](#). According to official US figures supplied to the website there have been a total of 1,160 US drone strikes in Afghanistan since the beginning of 2009. (Note each 'weapon released' is counted by the military as a strike; in press reports often several weapons releases at a single location are counted as a single 'strike'.) This is not the overall total number of US drone strikes as figures have only been given from the beginning of 2009, while US drones have been operating in Afghanistan for several years before that.



Figures supplied to DangerRoom by US military

The raw figures give an insight, for the first time, into US drone activity in Afghanistan. Several organisations, notably [The Bureau of Investigative Journalism \(TBIJ\)](#) track drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. Figures were also released for the number of [US drone strikes undertaken in Libya at the end of the conflict \(145\)](#). However as far as we know this is the first time that figures have been released relating to US drone strikes in Afghanistan.

The UK has reported on the overall number of strikes it has undertaken in Afghanistan. The current figures, given this week by [UK Defence Minister, Philip Dunne](#) as 349 since June 2008, means that since the beginning of 2009 there have been almost 1,500 drone strikes in Afghanistan.

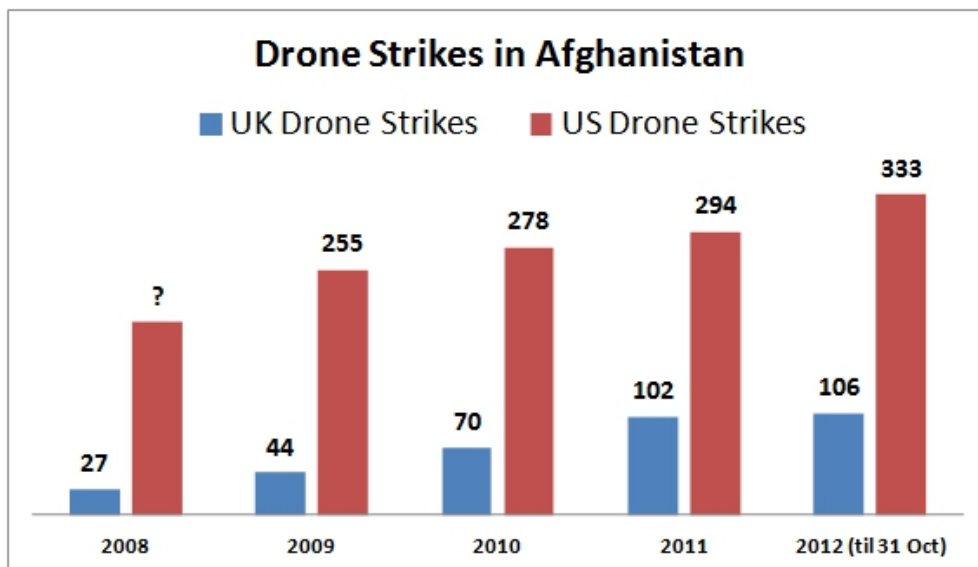
The use of drones is clearly increasing all the times. As Noah Shachtman, Editor of DangerRoom points out in his piece on the figures:

"The U.S. military is now launching more drone strikes — an average of 33 per month — than at any moment in the 11 years of the Afghan conflict. It's a major escalation from just last year, when the monthly average was 24.5"

Shachtman goes on to point out that because the overall number of aircraft sorties are reducing

"drone strikes in Afghanistan now make up about 9 percent of the overall total

of aerial attacks. Last year, it was a little more than 5 percent. The UAVs are growing in importance while the rest of the military is receding.”



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