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## US-led drone crashes in southeast Afghanistan

1/23/2013



A spy drone belonging to the US-led forces in Afghanistan has crashed in the country's southeastern Paktika Province

The aircraft went down in the Jani Khel district of the Afghan province on Tuesday.

Taliban militants claimed that they had downed the spy drone.

NATO confirmed the crash in a statement on Wednesday. However, it did not provide any details about the cause of the incident.

*The United States regularly uses drones for attacks and spying missions in Afghanistan, as well as in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt near the Afghan border, among other places.*

Washington claims that the airstrikes target militants, but local sources say civilians have been the main victims of the attacks.

In the latest such attack on Monday, dozens of people were killed in two successive drone strikes in Afghanistan's eastern Nuristan Province.

The United Nations says the US assassination drone attacks are "targeted killings" that flout international law.

The airstrikes were initiated under former US President George W. Bush, but have been escalated under incumbent President Barack Obama.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity remains across the country.