

## **US Air Force Statement on Civilian Casualty Incident on Feb. 21, 2010, in Afghanistan's Uruzgan Province**

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The US Air Force has received a US Forces Commander-Afghanistan Investigation report detailing his findings from a Feb 21, 2010 civilian casualty incident in the Uruzgan Province of Afghanistan.

The civilian injuries and loss of life are deeply regrettable.

The report outlines discrepancies in communication, information exchange, experience levels and decision-making by ground and air assets, including joint special operations forces and in-country joint operations centers, as well as ISR support provided by an Air Force remotely piloted aircraft crew.

In reference to the report on May 28 [2010], the Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Norton Schwartz, acknowledged that "mistakes were made and findings need to be acted on."

RPAs provide real-time intelligence, combat strike capability; and help ensure the safety and security of friendly forces and civilians. RPAs are a critical element to the successful execution and achievement of security objectives. Predator crews operate 42 combat air patrols 24-hours a day in challenging, hostile environments. In this case no weapons were delivered by the Air Force RPAs.

The Air Force is reviewing the classified report, and will address its findings, so the Air Force can continue to provide a precise and reliable remotely piloted aircraft capability to the combatant commander.