

US Airstrikes Hit Iran-Backed Militia Facilities in Iraq, Syria

The U.S. military carried out a round of air strikes against Iran-backed militia in Iraq and Syria after three months of attacks by the militia against U.S. and coalition personnel and facilities in Iraq, multiple sources report, and those factions have already vowed revenge.

The retaliatory strikes were carried out at the direction of President Joe Biden, only the second time he has ordered attacks of this nature since taking office five months ago. The previous attacks came as limited strikes in Syria in February as a response to rocket attacks in Iraq.

“At President Biden’s direction, U.S. military forces earlier this evening conducted defensive precision airstrikes against facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups in the Iraq-Syria border region,” Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement. “The targets were selected because these facilities are utilized by Iran-backed militias that are engaged in unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks against U.S. personnel and facilities in Iraq.”

The Pentagon said the facilities were used by Iran-backed militia factions, including Kata’ib Hezbollah and Kata’ib Sayyid al-Shuhada, per The Associated Press.