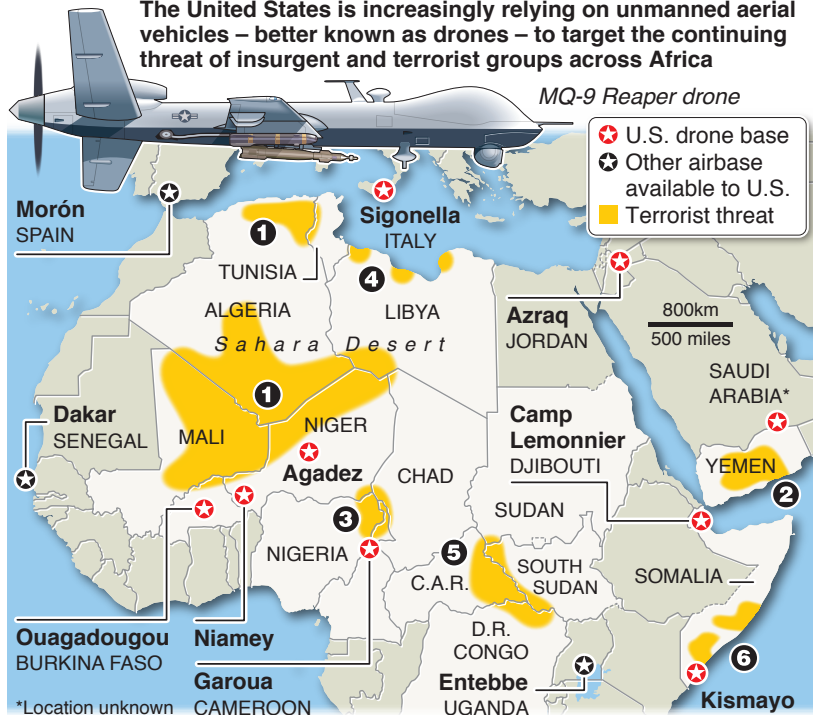


U.S. expanding drone operations in Africa

The United States is increasingly relying on unmanned aerial vehicles – better known as drones – to target the continuing threat of insurgent and terrorist groups across Africa



*Location unknown

1 Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM): Islamists in Sahel region under U.S. surveillance. New \$100m base being built at Agadez will allow drones to operate further north

2 Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP): Yemen-based jihadists targeted by drones from Camp Lemonnier – main U.S. facility in Africa undergoing \$1.4bn upgrade

3 Boko Haram: Insurgent group losing territory in northeast Nigeria. U.S. assisting fight with intelligence-gathering operation and 300 troops at secretive Garoua base

4 So-called Islamic State (Daesh) Militants close to being ousted from stronghold in Sirte. Armed Reaper flights launched from Jordan and Sigonella naval base in Sicily

5 Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) U.S. advisers providing intelligence to African Union task force hunting senior members of feared rebel group and its leader, **Joseph Kony**

6 Al Shabab: Jihadist organisation losing territory and top commanders due to ground operations and drone strikes. U.S. special forces reportedly operating from Kismayo airport