

Tuesday, May 29, 2012 As of 5:13 AM New York 83° | 63°

News, Quotes, Companies, Videos

BUSINESS

GET 8 WEEKS
FREE
SUBSCRIBE NOW! [▶ THE PRINT JOURNAL](#)
[▶ THE ONLINE JOURNAL](#)

[U.S. Edition Home](#) [Today's Paper](#) [People In The News](#) [Video](#) [Blogs](#) [Journal Community](#)

[Subscribe](#) [Log In](#)

[World](#) [U.S.](#) [New York](#) [Business](#) [Markets](#) [Tech](#) [Personal Finance](#) [Life & Culture](#) [Opinion](#) [Careers](#) [Real Estate](#) [Small Business](#)

[Asia](#) [Europe](#) [Earnings](#) [Economy](#) [Health](#) [Law](#) [Autos](#) [Management](#) [Media & Marketing](#) [Energy](#) [CFO Journal](#)

TOP STORIES IN
Business



1 of 12
Apple Gears Up for New Products



2 of 12
Investors Bet on Facebook Fall



3 of 12
Prospects Dim for BlackBerry Maker



Jay on

BUSINESS | Updated May 29, 2012, 8:13 a.m. ET

U.S. Plans to Arm Italy's Drones

Article

Video

Comments (93)

MORE IN BUSINESS »

< 443 < 530

ARTICLE FREE PASS

Enjoy your free sample of exclusive subscriber content.

GET ALL OF WSJ.COM: [SUBSCRIBE NOW - GET 8 WEEKS FREE](#)

By ADAM ENTOUS



The Obama administration plans to arm Italy's fleet of Reaper drone aircraft, a move that could open the door for sales of advanced hunter-killer drone technology to other allies. WSJ's Alessandra Galloni and Ben Rooney report. Photo: AP

WASHINGTON—The Obama administration plans to arm Italy's fleet of Reaper drone aircraft, a move that could open the door for sales of advanced hunter-killer drone technology to other allies, according to lawmakers and others familiar with the matter.

The sale would make Italy the first foreign country besides Britain to fly U.S. drones armed with missiles and laser-guided bombs. U.S. officials said Italy intends initially to deploy the armed drones in Afghanistan.

Lawmakers who question the planned deal say the decision to "weaponize" Italy's unarmed surveillance drones could make it harder for the U.S. to deny similar capabilities to other North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies, and set back efforts to urge sales limitations on other nations that make sophisticated drones such as Israel.

Advocates say such sales would enable trusted allies to conduct military missions on their own as well as help open markets for U.S. drone manufacturers.

The administration sent a confidential "pre-notification" to congressional panels in April detailing its plan to sell kits to Italy to arm up to six Reaper drones, which are larger, more powerful versions of Predators.

The administration gave Congress a longer-than-usual 40 days to review the proposed sale. The period ended May 27 without a move to block the sale, according to

Available to WSJ.com Subscribers

U.S. Plans to Arm Italy's Drones



Chesapeake Has Been Oklahoma City's Angel



Europe Turns to U.S. for Leveraged Loans



Flat Wages Fuel Manufacturing Rebound

Don't Miss...

Powered by Taboola



Tuna Carried Fukushima Radioactivity to U.S. Coast
05:11



Sisters Spend \$150 Million for Two Houses
03:29



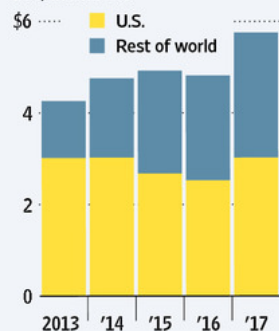
Switzerland Makes Plans for the End of the Euro
03:16

congressional officials, clearing the way for the deal to move forward and for a formal notification of Congress as soon as this week.

Congress still could block the sale if it passes a joint resolution of disapproval in both the House and the Senate within 15 calendar days, though several members of Congress from both parties say such a move is unlikely.

Spy in the Sky

Projected spending to procure drones for military and civilian use, in billions



Note: Does not include certain high-performance drones designed for ground attack.
Source: Teal Group

A Pentagon spokeswoman said the U.S. won't comment on proposed foreign military sales until Congress is formally notified of them. "Italy is a strong partner and NATO ally that significantly contributes to U.S. and NATO-led coalition operations," said the spokeswoman, Commander Wendy Snyder.

She added: "The transfer of U.S. defense articles and services to Italy, among other allies, enables Italy to burden-share and contribute capabilities to operations that protect not only Italian troops but also those of the United States and other coalition partners."

The White House declined to comment, as did the Italian embassy in Washington. Italian military officers in Afghanistan declined to comment on the use of Reapers there. Italy has lost about 50 troops in Afghanistan.

Critics of the proposed sale include the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Dianne

Feinstein, a California Democrat. "America's cutting-edge high technology should not be shared. That's just my view," Mrs. Feinstein said. "I am concerned by the proliferation of these weapons systems and don't think we should be selling them."

A chief concern of critics is that the administration has yet to spell out what strings, if any, would be attached to a sales of this type to Italy and other future buyers.

Though Italy would initially use armed drones to protect its nearly 4,000 troops in Afghanistan, U.S. officials indicated they might be used elsewhere in the future. The administration could negotiate "end-use requirements" to limit how the armed Reapers can be used, but it hasn't told Congress what those might be.

Advocates of the deal question why critics would oppose the sale of armed drones while supporting the sale of other sophisticated and deadly systems, such as F-35 manned stealth fighters and cruise missiles, to Italy, Turkey and others.

Rep. Henry Cuellar (D., Texas), co-head of a congressional group called the Unmanned Systems Caucus, said the U.S. has a complex calculation to make in deciding whether to sell advanced drones to allies, balancing concerns about proliferation against the goal of promoting U.S. sales abroad.

More on Drones

[U.S. Rethinks Secrecy on Drone Program](#)
[Could We Trust an Army of Killer Robots?](#)
[Judge Grants Extension for Drone Lawsuit](#)

The world procurement market for aerial drones, both military and civilian, is expected to rise to \$5.8 billion in 2017 from a projected \$4.3 billion next year, according to Teal Group, a market-analysis firm.

The figures include Reapers and Predators but not a new generation of drones specifically designed as combat vehicles.

Despite the administration's support for armed-drone sales to close allies, top officials say they are increasingly concerned about the spread of the technology. John Brennan, President Barack Obama's chief counterterrorism adviser, said in a speech last month that the president and his national-security team are "very mindful that, as our nation uses this technology, we are establishing precedents that other nations may follow, and not all

"I would like to know the criteria, how it's going to be used, because once you get that equipment, it's out there," Mr. Cuellar said. "We've got to give it some thought, not rush into it."

Most Popular

- [Read](#)
- [Emailed](#)
- [Video](#)

-  [Storied Law Firm Dewey Files Chapter 11](#)

Subscriber Content [Read Preview](#)

[Jennifer Smith Ashby Jones](#)

-  [Apple Gears Up for New Products Jessica](#)

Finance & Accounting Jobs

Clerk - Internal Firm Services - PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
 AT&T - Account Manager 1 - Bridgeport, Meriden or Hartford, CT - AT&T
 Controller - Robert Half Management Resources
 Staff, Audit Services (Full-time, Start date in Fall 2013) - Columbus - Deloitte

MORE JOBS AND CAREER NEWS

[Technology Jobs](#) | [IT Jobs](#) | [Sales Jobs](#) | [Marketing Jobs](#)

[FINS for Employers & Recruiters »](#)

[POST A JOB](#)

More in Business

[Law Firm Dewey for Files Chapter 11](#)
[Chesapeake Has Been Oklahoma City's Angel](#)
[Marubeni to Buy Gavilon](#)
[Gupta Could Be Risky Witness in Own Defense](#)
[Mind-Controlled Games Become Reality](#)

Latest Headlines

[Flat Wages Fuel Manufacturing Rebound](#)
[Law Firm Dewey for Files Chapter 11](#)
[U.S. Plans to Arm Italy's Drones](#)
[BP Investigated on Leak Estimates](#)
[Car Plant Brings Wary Hope](#)
[Beryl Soaks South As Midwest Broils](#)
[U.S. Tuna Has Fukushima Taint](#)
[Chesapeake Has Been Oklahoma City's Angel](#)
[Gupta Could Be Risky Witness in Own Defense](#)
[U.S. Ready for Europe Fallout, Says Fed Official](#)

[More Headlines](#)

Penny stocks soaring 900%

Come experience penny stock gains with our free & accurate newsletter
www.PennyStocksUniverse.com

The Honda CR-V Leap List

Learn About The All-New 2012 CR-V. Get Started On Your Leap List Today
www.honda.com/leaplist

Full Color Business Cards

14 -16pt Glossy, Matte, Recycled or Uncoated. Satisfaction Guaranteed!
www.gotprint.com

of those nations...share our interests or the premium we put on protecting human life, including innocent civilians."

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Mr. Brennan didn't single out any country. Officials privately voice concern that Russia and China could soon field their own armed drones, potentially against separatist movements, in ways the U.S. might find objectionable. Administration officials want standards to govern the use of drones in warfare, but it is unclear how those standards could be set and how the U.S. would get other countries to sign on to them.

Britain, the first foreign country to get armed Reapers, is considered a "special case" because of its historically close military ties to the U.S.

It deployed its first unarmed Reaper surveillance drone in Afghanistan in October 2007. Surveillance drones gather intelligence and alert ground forces and manned aircraft, which can then fire on the target. Britain soon asked the U.S. to arm its Reapers, which the U.S. did in 2008.

Italy is following a similar path, said Peter Singer, a Brookings Institution senior fellow and author of "Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century."

NATO member Turkey also wants to buy armed Reapers—for use against Kurdish separatist fighters—and the Obama administration supports Turkey's request. Lawmakers have objected, citing tensions between Ankara and Israel, so far preventing the administration from sending such a proposal to Congress for review.

Some current and former U.S. officials question the standards used by Turkey in selecting targets for strikes, pointing to a strike by Turkish warplanes in December that killed 34 civilians after a U.S. Predator drone provided surveillance footage to the Turkish military.

The administration initially approached lawmakers last year to sound them out about arming Italy's Reapers. That request—unlike the one in April—was pulled after some lawmakers privately raised questions.

Officials said it would take at least a year to complete the upgrade of Italy's Reapers and train Italian pilots to use the sophisticated weapons and targeting systems. That has prompted some officials in Congress to question whether the armed Reapers would be of much use in Afghanistan, since NATO plans call for withdrawing combat forces by the end of 2014.

The kits would allow the Reapers to carry and fire Hellfire missiles, laser-guided bombs and larger munitions used to take out more deeply buried targets, according to officials briefed on the package.

—Alessandra Galloni contributed to this article.

A version of this article appeared May 29, 2012, on page A1 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: U.S. Plans To Arm Italy's Drones.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
93 Comments, add yours

MORE IN
Business »

[Email](#)[Print](#)[Order Reprints](#)

D-Day 1944

Richly Presented. Historical Details Come Alive.
www.sspbooks.com

Free Flight Training Mag

6 Free Issues of Flight Training Magazine. Sign up today!
www.AOPA.org/FlightTraining

Aviation Consultants

Aviation Brokering, Management, Representation, and Consulting Services
www.aeromantia.com

Penny stocks soaring 900%

Come experience penny stock gains with our free & accurate newsletter
www.PennyStocksUniverse.com

Add a Comment

[View All Comments \(93\)](#)

JOURNAL COMMUNITY

[Community rules](#)

To add a comment please

Log in**Create an Account**

Your real name is required
for commenting.



Track replies to my comment

CLEAR

POST

[Login with Facebook](#)

Subscribe Now for Full Access to WSJ.com and Get

8 WEEKS FREE**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

WSJ Subscriber's content provides:

- **Personalized** tracking of industries
- **Heard on the Street:** up-to-the-minute news and analysis that affects the markets and industries
- **Core business news:** "What's News" and new "Management" section

Editors' Picks

**Chesapeake Has Been
Oklahoma City's Angel**



**Joint Effort: Reefer
Roadshow Asks Seniors to
Support Medical Pot**



**A Jiu-Jitsu Workout for a
Stressed Chef**



Do Headphones Help?



How to Cure a Hangover

Customer Center:

[My Account](#)
[My Subscriptions](#)

Create an Account:

[Register for Limited Access](#)
[Subscribe to WSJ.com](#)
[Sign up for WSJ Professional](#)
[Subscribe to WSJ Weekend -
Print Edition](#)

Help & Information Center:

[Help](#)
[Customer Service](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Global Support](#)
[Print Subscriber Services](#)

About:

[Content Partnerships](#)
[Reprints](#)
[Advertising](#)
[Place a Classified Ad](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Advertise Locally](#)
[Conferences](#)
[About Dow Jones](#)
[Privacy Policy - UPDATED
10/18/2011](#)
[Your Ad Choices](#)
[Subscriber Agreement &
Terms of Use - Updated](#)
[Copyright Policy](#)
[Jobs at WSJ.com](#)

WSJ.com:

[Site Map](#)
[Home](#)
[World](#)
[U.S.](#)
[New York](#)
[Business](#)
[Markets](#)
[Market Data](#)
[Tech](#)
[Personal Finance](#)
[Life & Culture](#)
[Opinion](#)
[Autos](#)
[Careers](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Small Business](#)
[Student Journal](#)
[Corrections](#)

Tools & Formats:

[Today's Paper](#)
[Video Center](#)
[Graphics](#)
[Columns](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Topics](#)
[Guides](#)
[Alerts](#)
[Newsletters](#)
[Mobile](#)
[WSJ Social](#)
[Tablet Edition](#)
[Podcasts](#)
[RSS Feeds](#)
[Journal Community](#)
[WSJ on Twitter](#)
[WSJ on Facebook](#)
[WSJ on Foursquare](#)

Digital Network

[WSJ.com](#)
[Marketwatch.com](#)
[Barrons.com](#)
[SmartMoney.com](#)
[AllThingsD.com](#)
[FINS: Finance, IT jobs, Sales jobs](#)
[BigCharts.com](#)
[Virtual Stock Exchange](#)
[WSJ Radio](#)
[Professor Journal](#)
[WSJ U.S. Edition](#)
[WSJ Asia Edition](#)
[WSJ Europe Edition](#)
[WSJ India Page](#)
 Foreign Language Editions:
[WSJ Chinese](#)

[SafeHouse - Send Us
Information](#)

[My Journal](#)
[Portfolio](#)
[WSJ Digital Downloads](#)

[WSJ Japanese](#)
[WSJ Portuguese](#)
[WSJ Spanish](#)
[WSJ Deutschland](#)

Copyright ©2012 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved