

Iraq shoots down unmanned U.S. aircraft

WASHINGTON - Iraq has acknowledged that it shot down an unmanned U.S. surveillance plane over the southern "no-fly" zone on Monday. The downing of the spy plane is the first of a U.S. aircraft in a no-fly zone since a UN resolution was passed last month demanding Baghdad disarm. U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Richard Myers is playing down the incident. He insists it does not escalate the growing tension between the two countries. Iraq charges that British and American warplanes have attacked civilian targets and killed innocent people, charges the Pentagon has always denied. The Predator drone was on a reconnaissance mission when it was shot down by Iraqi aircraft. Iraqi air defenses have fired at U.S. and British planes patrolling no-fly zones 500 times this year, said U.S. officials. The U.S. has Predator drones flying over Iraq searching for signs of weapons of mass destruction. The unmanned aircraft are also used for surveillance, but can be armed with missiles. They can stay aloft for 24 hours.

Words to know:

shot down _____
unmanned _____
no-fly zone _____
resolution _____
disarm _____
escalate _____

drone _____
tension _____
innocent people _____
reconnaissance _____
weapons of mass destruction _____
surveillance _____

Questions

1. True or False: The United States shot down an Iraqi aircraft.
2. The UN wants Iraq to _____ .
3. How long can the Predator drone stay in the air?
4. How many U.S. aircraft have been shot down since the UN resolution was passed last month?
5. In your opinion, is war good? Explain your answer.

