20 Percent of U.S. Reaper Drones Destroyed in Iranian Attacks



Collected photo

The United States has suffered major losses to its advanced MQ-9 Reaper drone fleet amid the ongoing conflict with Iran. International media reports say nearly 20 percent of the U.S. Air Force's total Reaper drones have been destroyed.

Citing Bloomberg data, middleeasteye.net reported that Iran has so far shot down or destroyed Reaper drones worth nearly $1 billion. Some were reportedly downed in the air, while others were damaged during attacks on U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf region.

The MQ-9 Reaper is one of Washington's key drones used for surveillance and missile strikes. Reports suggest the U.S. has lost around 30 Reaper drones during the conflict, exceeding previous official estimates.

Meanwhile, the cost of the war is also rising rapidly. According to a Pentagon official, U.S. military operations against Iran have already cost nearly $29 billion.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier claimed that Iran's air defense system had been completely weakened. However, the repeated downing of American drones has raised new questions about that assertion. Reports also claim Iran has strengthened its defense capabilities with support from Russia and China.