Iran Claims Capture of US Drone Near Hormuz

Collected photo.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has claimed that it seized a US unmanned underwater drone near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. The United States, however, said one of its older-model drones had malfunctioned in the area due to a mechanical failure.

According to a report broadcast by Iran's state television citing the IRGC, Iranian naval forces seized what was described as an advanced and sophisticated unmanned underwater vehicle near the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz early Tuesday following an intelligence operation.

The IRGC said the underwater vehicle was equipped with advanced technology and had been added to the US Navy's fleet in 2025. It also said images of the seized vehicle would be released soon.

Iranian media reported that unmanned underwater vehicles of this type are used for underwater exploration and surveillance, seabed mapping, mine detection, and inspection of submarine cables and pipelines.

Following Iran's announcement, a US official told Al Jazeera that an underwater drone operated by US forces in the Middle East had suffered a mechanical failure more than a day earlier.

The official said the drone had been used to conduct surveys in regional waters in support of ongoing operations. He described it as an older model that did not have the capability to collect sensitive information or carry radar equipment.