《美国将在利比亚使用无人机进行空袭》

The U.S. said it is starting to use armed drones to carry out missile strikes against Col. Moammar Gadhafi's troops in Libya, despite the Obama administration's vow to leave such offensive missions to its allies.

??????????????????????(Moammar Gadhafi)????????????????????????????????

Defense officials said the airstrikes?which will target Libyan troops hiding near civilians in urban areas?were necessary to respond to a shift in tactics by the Libyan military. Allied aircraft have proved unable to fully protect civilians and rebel forces under heavy attack from Gadhafi loyalists. The drones can get closer, allowing more-precise strikes, and loiter longer, giving them a better chance of finding hidden targets.

??

"The president has said where we have unique capabilities, he is willing to use those," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday, as he announced the drone strikes.

????????(Robert Gates)??

The U.S. is putting two Predator drones, each equipped with two Hellfire missiles, in Libyan airspace around the clock. The first Predator attack sorties were launched Thursday, though after the aircraft took off, weather conditions prevented any strikes.

???????“???”(Predator)????????????“???”(Hellfire)??

President Barack Obama has based his Libya policy on the notion that the U.S. would take a back-seat role in protecting rebels and civilians from Col. Gadhafi's forces. After leading the initial attacks last month, the U.S. turned over responsibility for hitting armored columns and other ground forces to French, British and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations.

??(North Atlantic Treaty Organization)????