

The US airstrike in Pakistan's Taliban-controlled tribal agency of North Waziristan may have killed a senior al Qaeda operative. But the reports may be confusing one of al Qaeda's senior-most leaders with a senior explosives trainer and expert.

The attack, launched earlier today at a compound in Spalaga near Mir Ali, killed three al Qaeda operatives, according to Pakistani intelligence officials.

The report changed much later in the day, when Pakistani officials claimed an explosion inside the compound, and not a US strike, caused the deaths. But US intelligence officials contacted by The Long War Journal confirmed that the US carried out the attack inside Pakistan.

The rest of the article can be read on [The Long War Journal's website](#)