**US military strikes facility in Syria in response to attacks on troops**

BY ELLEN MITCHELL | THE HILL

**FILE** - Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin speaks during a news conference with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley in Washington, on July 19, 2023. Austin met with Papua New Guinea leaders on Thursday, July 27, 2023 to discuss developing the Pacific Island nation's military strength and deepening security ties, as the United States competes with China for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. (AP Photo/Mandel Balce Ceneta, File)

The Pentagon has deployed at least 1,200 troops to the region along with a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery and Patriot batteries. In addition, Washington has sent two air carrier strike groups to the region and a nuclear-powered submarine.

"The United States is fully prepared to take further necessary measures to protect our people and our facilities," Austin said. "We urge against any escalation. U.S. personnel will continue to conduct counter-ISIS missions in Iraq and Syria."