As a witness to the removal of fallen U.S. troops from Afghanistan, Army Chaplain Christopher John Antal can't recall a time when that solemn ceremony wasn't conducted without the presence of drones passing along the horizon.

They were sleek and quiet, making a gentle humming noise as they flew over the flight lines — where aircraft can be parked and serviced — of the Kandahar airfield in Afghanistan, where he was stationed in 2012. Not everyone had access to the flight lines, according to Antal, but he was responsible for participating in dignified transfer ceremonies, also known as ramp ceremonies, which were set there to greet the caskets of fallen service personnel as they were returned to base, en route to the U.S. On these occasions, he would watch the drones drift in and out, loaded with Hellfire missiles.

"It was [a] stark contrast to the solemnity of what I was doing at the ceremonies," Antal, a Unitarian Universalist minister, told ABC News about watching the drones during the ceremonies. "When I would watch them and think about where they had been and where they were going, it would break my soul."

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