Strategic, Operational and Tactical Considerations for Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

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Military Rationale

Technological superiority and advanced military capabilities that offer the possessor of lethal autonomous weapons strategic, operational, and tactical advantage.
Sub Goals

- Assist or replace personnel in decision making, cognitive or labor intensive tasks
- Reduce or eliminate personnel to exposure to danger and stress, while simultaneously retaining the capability to pursue mission objectives and goals
Air

- Pros: expanded intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance + strike capacity
- Cons: political scrutiny, high costs, interoperability, unintended or inefficacious effects from learning machines
Sea

- Pros: advantages in antisubmarine warfare, maritime security, surface warfare, joint operations, intelligence, surveillance reconnaissance, expanded standoff strike capacity

- Cons: Classification problems in maritime law; Duties to Rescue; perception and situational awareness; Testing and Verification
**Land**

- Pros: countermine operations; counter improvised explosive devise operations, security/perimeter defense, defensive artillery/mortar/missile systems; light agile maneuverable ground vehicles

- Cons: Targeting & Military Objectives Problems compromising or making redundant command and control; Vulnerability to decoys/deception
Figure 1. Unmanned Vehicle Teams on the digital battlefield can act as a force multiplier if they have the autonomy and collaboration capabilities necessary to operate in teams without extensive human supervision.
Long-Term Strategic Considerations

1. Arms Races
2. Proliferation