

Old Dominion University

New Technology VS Warfare

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CRJS 495- CYBER TERRORISM

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The topic I chose to learn about is how new technology is affecting warfare. As we all know, new technology such as drones, hypersonic technology, artificial intelligence, and the cyber world is growing each second. That being said, this technology is not only being used or developed by the U.S. and its allies but terrorist organizations too. Which raises concerns around the world. The reason for some of the new technologies these terrorist organizations are developing or using not only do damage to people on the battlegrounds but also allow them to recruit people. When looking at the U.S., its use of the new technology being developed leads to better protection for its citizens and allies.

For example, one of the new technologies created and used by the U.S is artificial intelligence or AI. One of the ways they are using artificial intelligence is to execute missions (Army University Press, 2023). AI helps execute missions by using radar to locate targets. It is also being used to trick enemies by making them uncertain as to what is real or not. To achieve this, the United States is using AI to sound like the leader's of their enemies as they attack their communication units.

Another way the United States is using new technologies is drone advancement. The U.S military has taken action to develop drones that can operate in all kinds of weather, shoot missiles, and send/save surveillance (Army University Press, 2023). In this capacity, the drones being used are important on the battlefield. The United States is now able to stay a safe distance from enemies but are still able to defend and protect themselves. That being said, the U.S. military has also been developing drones that would work together and self-destruct to take out smaller targets (Army University Press, 2023).

In the future, the United States plans on furthering its use of technology to make it more effective and extreme. An example of the U.S using effective technology is its use of hypersonic technology. Hypersonic technology is a technology that increases the speed of anything it is equipped with. Meaning when it is equipped with a missile it will allow it to go up 20 times the speed of sound (Army University Press, 2023). Another way the U.S. plans to further the use of technology is by using information overload systems and cyber warfare. Information overload would allow the U.S. to attack enemies' networks and communication systems by jamming and disrupting the enemy's side (Army University Press, 2023). Cyber warfare would allow the U.S. to hack into target systems and take over their power grids and satellites.

When looking at how terrorist organizations are using new technology many are similar to how the U.S. is using new technology. For example, when looking at how ISIS is using drones. ISIS has developed drones and is using them to take live surveillance during their missions (Almohammad & Speckhard, 2017). Another example of how ISIS is using new technology is when it comes to apps and social media.

The terrorist organization ISIS has developed an app in the past to connect people who have the same interests and want to live by the same principles they do. When it comes to social media ISIS has been known to use it to contact and recruit people to join their organization. As they have when they are using social media they will target people between the ages of 15-25 years old. They are more likely to join because they are vulnerable (Taylor, 2020). That being said, ISIS is also using online gaming platforms to communicate, recruit, and promote (DNI, 2023). As online gaming platforms are known to be less monitored by the government and creators. Lastly, when it comes to recruitment and new technology, terrorist organizations also

use artificial intelligence to do so. By using new AI tools to customize and target certain demographics of people (Weimann, 2024).

When it comes to reflecting on what I have learned from this research project, it is that we can only do so much. Meaning we can only keep doing what we are already doing and protect the ones we love. As society today is in the midst of a new transformation that nobody can be truly 100% prepared for. As technology advances the world is constantly evolving too. In some ways for the better but also the worst. For example, our country is advancing in new technology to defend our nation from other countries' attacks. So in a way, it's truly just putting more fuel on the fire in my eyes.

Yes, some people's background or upbringing does affect how they're going to act. Which leads the way there going to act but we aren't doing anything to fix that problem. We are more as a country focused on how we can plan out another attack or build a new weapon of mass destruction rather than changing those people's lives and the environment they live in. Changing people's lives such as people who live in foreign countries taken over by terrorist organizations could give them a better look at life. Which could lead to fewer people joining these terrorist organizations. Having fewer people joining these terrorist organizations could also allow us to focus on how to use new technology more positively.

Which leads me to another thing that pointed out to me during this research is that a lot of these new technologies are not being created for anything positive. When I say positive I mean not being used to harm people. I feel like we should be creating more items that could be used by medics in the military. That item could be used to bring home someone's loved one home from a tour. Which in my eyes is way more important than someone receiving their loved one dog tag or

a flag wrapped into a triangle. In a way, this research project has opened my eyes to how this world is evolving. Rather than focusing on how technology is evolving.

Just for the reason that we the people of the United States choose not to create something positive for the military but damaging to someone. This in a way can lead to me asking the people who are creating these new technology weapons “Are you better than the people on the other side?” As I said before we are just adding more fuel to the fire when creating more destructive weapons. Rather than focusing on how to focus on resolving the problem. But that being said there is no right or wrong answer to how we should go about new technology.

The reason I say that is because when it comes down to it, what are we going to do if the enemies are crafting new technology weapons and not wanting to end conflict? We must answer back with force to protect our people. If we didn't, society would look at the U.S. and rebel against it. Or other countries might think we are weak and try to come and take over the U.S. Which in return would lead to more attacks and bloodshed and people not returning home to their families.

All of this being said, I do truly see both sides of the argument of what we should do with this new technology. It means that there's nothing we can truly do to save the world in the path it's going down. As we have seen in class children are being used and manipulated in these cyber terrorism attacks. This also shows that they are not scared to experiment on children when it comes to testing new technology. Terrorist organizations such as ISIS have already started doing that in numerous attacks, evolving and testing drone surveillance. Which is scary in a way because it shows that they are becoming more heartless. If a person was to be raised in that environment they will run the chance of being a product of that environment. That means they

will have the same mindset and be taught to be heartless too which would lose more hope in society in ever changing. In short, this research project has not only taught me about how new technology is being used and developed by the U.S. and terrorist organizations but also that the world is falling apart.

References

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