

Law, Ethics, & Autonomous Weapons Systems

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Agenda

- I. The Frame: Just War Theory & International Humanitarian Law
- II. The United Nations and the Convention on Conventional Weapons & “Killer Robots”
- III. US Policy & Current Weapons Systems
- IV. “Autonomous” Weapons or AI?
- V. What to Expect: Today, Near-Term and Long-Term Considerations

Just War Theory

- Just War Theory
 - *Jus ad Bellum* – The just resort to force
 - Just Cause, Last Resort, Likelihood of Success, Proportionality, Proper Authority
 - *Jus in Bello* – The just use of force
 - Noncombatant immunity; Proportionality; Necessity

International Humanitarian Law

- International Humanitarian Law (IHL):
- Body of customary and treaty laws governing the use of force during hostilities, including international and noninternational armed conflicts.



The Frame of the Debate

“Killer Robots” are:



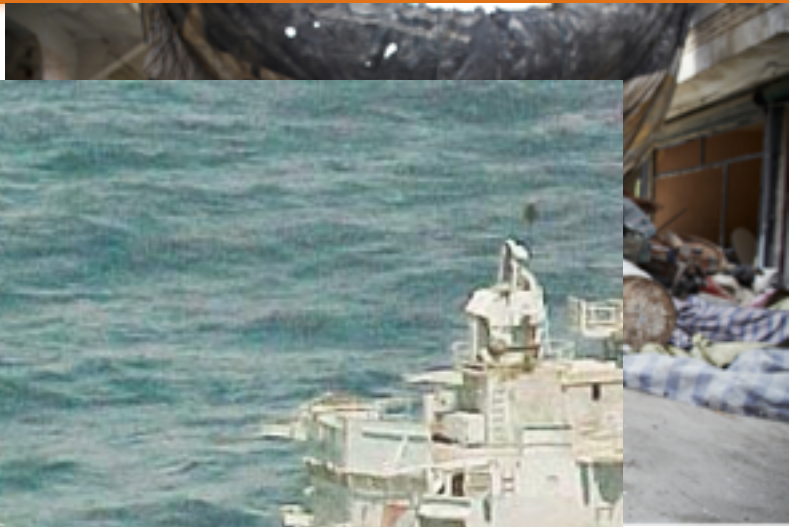
- Unable to uphold the principle of distinction
- Unable to uphold the principle of proportionality
- Unable to accord with the Martens Clause
- Likely to increase the probability of war or escalation

Current Happenings at The United Nations

The UN & The CCW:

DANS CE BÂTIMENT / IN THIS BUILDING		09:26	
Réunion / Meeting			
	Salle / Room	Priv. / Publ.	Heures/Time AM PM
CCAC			
CCW Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons	XXI	Public	10:00 15:00
CCW Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons	XXII	Public	10:00 15:00
CCW Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons	XXIII	Public	13:00 15:00
CSTD			
17th Session			
Division of Administration			
Global town hall meeting on mobility and career development	XVIII	Public	10:00 15:00

Targeting Difficulties



Department of Defense Policy

US DoD Directive 3000.09 (2012): Establish DoD policy and guidelines regarding autonomous and semi-autonomous weapons systems. 5 year policy window, in 2017 must be reissued, cancelled or certified.

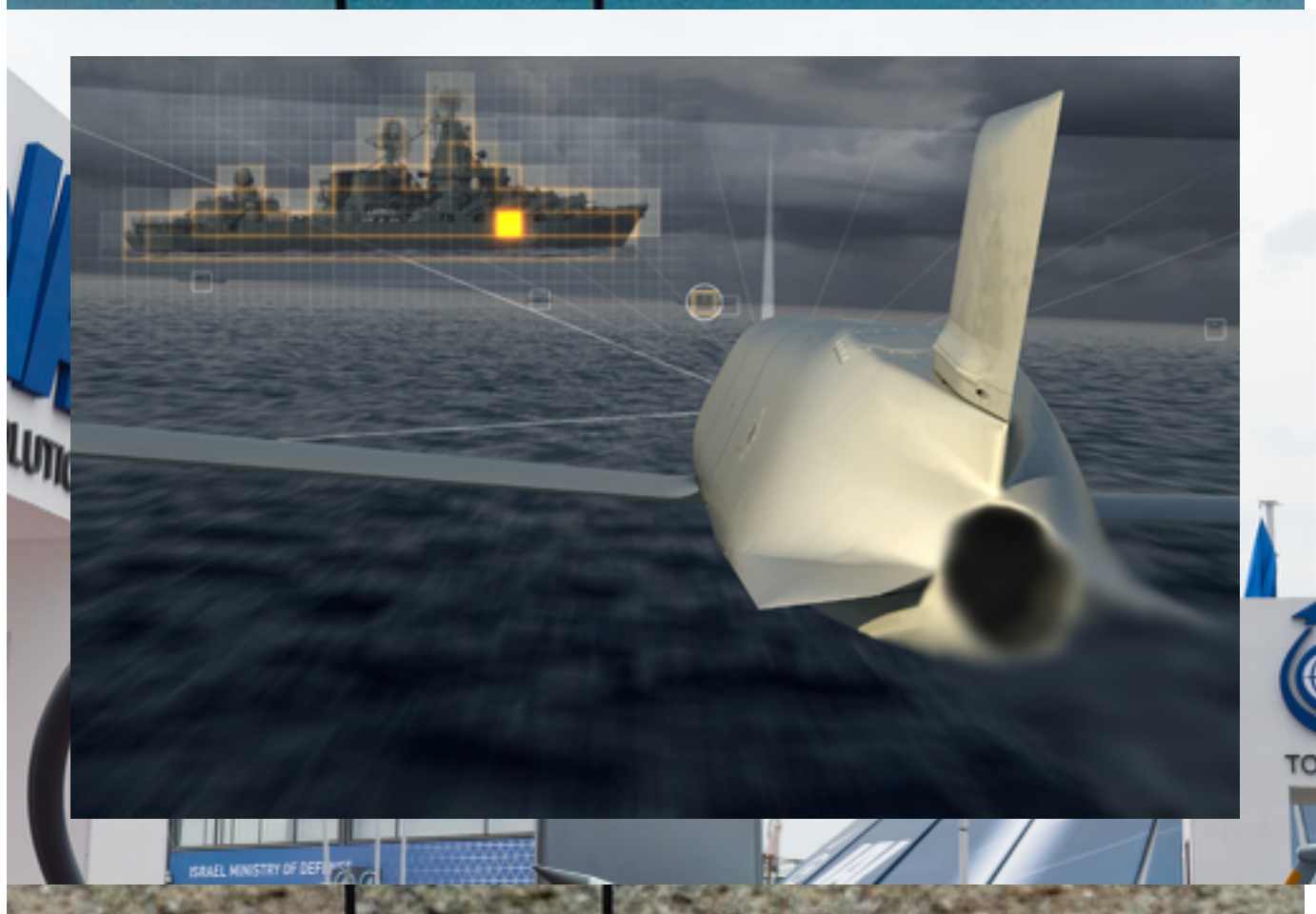
- “[weapons must be] designed to allow appropriate levels of human judgment over the use of force”
- “autonomous systems” may not select human targets, but may engage nonkinetically, or against materiel, or in time sensitive attacks
- “semi-autonomous weapons” are permitted to apply lethal and kinetic force.

Department of Defense Policy

Problems:

- Definitions of “autonomous vs. semi-autonomous”
- Command Responsibility
- Not a “ban” on autonomous human targeting, easily overridden, built in plausible deniability

The Gateway Drugs



Autonomous Weapons or AI?



OR

