

Drones: Military Use and Effects

From a fighter jet to a fighting falcon, the Air Force has numerous, extensive, and expensive aircraft that do what they are designed to do relatively efficiently, which is fight. However, wouldn't it be more efficient, more cost effective, and safer if there were an alternative? One that was smaller, faster, and cheaper? As a matter of fact, yes it would be simpler, which is why small unmanned aircraft systems, more commonly known as drones, are becoming a new tactic for military use. Believe it or not, drones have been around since the 1900s and were originally going to be used for military operations. However, in recent years drones have become more recreational, such as using their vantage point to shoot photos and film videos or simply to play games with them. Even though our society has redirected the intentions of drone use, reconsidering its place in the Air Force could be beneficial. By doing so, drones could be the means that more lives could be saved out on the battlefield and could provide intelligence and surveillance far more attainable than anyone could ever imagine.

According to military health experts, blood loss or “bleeding out” is the leading cause of preventable death on the battlefield. Additionally, what is even more shocking, is the fact that studies show that uncontrolled blood loss was the leading cause of death in 90 percent of the potentially survivable battlefield cases. This percentage is disturbing and it’s horrific that there has been so little to help diminish these preventable deaths. However, drones could be game-changing in rectifying this colossal percentage. Research states that one of the best ways to save lives during combat operations is to provide blood products to forward-deployed medics and corpsmen as soon as possible. In a real combat environment, delivering blood involves one parachute jump from a high altitude, traveling long distances on foot, and potential exposure to

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extremely warm climates. The stress of the transport conditions could potentially affect the quality and clinical effectiveness of the blood product. However, this process could all be expedited if drones were able to deliver the blood. Drones could provide transport that is far quicker, safer, and more efficient. Unfortunately, such transportation needs improvements such as temperature control where the blood will be stored inside the drone or sustainable battery life, but drones could definitely be the leading cause of welcoming your loved one home.

Furthermore, drones could not only be life-saving but they can provide a level of intelligence and surveillance that could be monumental for the air force. With their high-resolution cameras, drones could be able to provide troops with detailed information about activities on the ground. Additionally, according to research, drones are able to perceive their surroundings, which allows them to map areas, track objects and provide analytical feedback. The possibilities are endless when it comes to drone use in the military. However, despite the good that drones could do, they could also pose a threat to our national security. It has been reported that several drones are used by nation-states such as Russia and China, terrorist organizations, and other lone wolves to obtain information with the intention to harm. This thought alone could be the sole reason why governments have been hesitant to introduce drones into the military.

There is far more research to be done on the uses of drones in our military. But, I believe that we as a nation need to figure out a way to safely promote the use of drones for military combat because, despite the harm that could possibly ensue, the positive effects can be far more impactful and be the answer we have been searching for all along.