



## **Update: Things I'm sick of hearing about-an opinion piece**

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June's issue of OCUPros (AMREL's newsletter for the unmanned systems industry) published "[Things I'm sick of hearing about-an opinion piece.](#)" The AUVSI group on the LinkedIn had a discussion on the article. Many comments were posted. Here are a few:

### **Adrian Peña**

Excellent article! I think that persistent surveillance is in itself a powerful weapon even not needing to kill anybody in the enemy side and it's also a high quality desired in the UAS equipment for the military and civil law enforcement organizations.

### **Ryan James**

Another falsehood (in the same vein as 'killing is easier') is that a truly unmanned battle makes war itself more likely, and easier to sell, because the sons and daughters of the nation don't have to die. This assumes that most of the population holds a cynical view of the slaughter of others. Personally, I find drone strikes that kill humans even more disturbing than the daily grind of modern warfare.

On a side note, when is someone going to build a drone with some bullets, and maybe a sidewinder? Like a Predator-Killer drone? That seems like a market just begging to be created.

### **Jack J. Illare III**

Technology has always played an important role in war. The side with the better weapons usually wins with the least amount of casualties. This has been proven in history, time and time again, with the invention of weapons such as the long bow, Gatling gun, and atomic bomb. The creation of future weapon systems is an ongoing endeavor to every society and vital to the survival of all. Today directed energy weapons, UAV's, and robots are all being created to counter weapons such as IEDs and to help defend our troops against dangers that may be lurking around the corner. Such tools in the hands of our warfighters keep them safer and help assure success to their missions.

"Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.



**Ed Herlik**

"I think that persistent surveillance is in itself a powerful weapon even not needing to kill anybody in the enemy side and it's also a high quality desired in the UAS equipment for the military and civil law enforcement organizations."

It's commonly known in the Air Force space community that a Chief of Staff directed hardware development for truly persistent UAVs (months or years on station) in "near space" back in 2003. The space guys had the job but squashed it to protect their budgets. The systems work but no operational prototype has yet flown given that history. The point? We already know how to do significantly more than we're doing - and troops are getting whacked daily who shouldn't be

LinkedIn members can see all of the comments by signing in and clicking ["Tired clichés about robots & war."](#)

What do *you* think? Send us your opinion at [ocupros@amrel.com](mailto:ocupros@amrel.com).