

Ronald Arkin's paper, "Governing Lethal Behavior: Embedding Ethics in a Hybrid Deliberative/Reactive Robot Architecture" discusses and modestly encourages the increased use of autonomous agents in combat. Important criteria include that agents should be programmed to the same laws that the humans follow such that the agent can distinguish between civilian and military targets without excessive force. Later in the paper, Arkin notes how non-emotional autonomous agents could be a major improvement over significantly error-prone people. Moreover, the robotic systems used today are not autonomous, but when they role around, the systems must be programmed by humans at different layers of the robot's functionality. He notes however, that the transition to the use of these autonomous agents should be taken carefully as entering war will be less risky for the implementer.