

Automated Assassins: Utility of Drones as Suicide Carders in Modern Warfare

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Due to modernization and technological advancement, belligerents and opponents (such as terrorist/rebels) adopt novel tactics and weaponry to meet the ends. Since opponents such as terrorists are free from international laws and boundaries, they adhere to variety of tactics which can vary from simple to complex and they can also differ from conventional to unconventional. However, suicide terrorism is considered as the most destructive form of all unconventional tactics of terrorism which deter the opponent, even if they lose the popular support sometimes. The danger of modern warfare is that, with the advancements in technology, instead of person who is willing to carry the bomb can be replaced by a flying drone. Even if this requires sufficient expertise, the investment is worth the effort due to its accuracy, non-human involvement without being captured in mishap. Recently, on 1st April 2021, Yemen's Al Houthi Movement (a Shia terror group) has claimed a drone attack on Riyadh, in Saudi Arabia. The same terror group on 14th September 2019 has claimed responsibility over the drone strike on state-owned Saudi Aramco oil processing facilities at Abqaiq. Looking at how drones have been utilized by terror groups such as Al Houthi Movement substituting suicide missions, this research emphasizes the mounting danger of drones been replaced as suicide carders due to its cost benefit factor and due to the effectiveness without any compromise. Further, this research highlights why this threat needs more attention as a national security priority in a rapidly enhancing technological environment.

Keywords: *drones, suicide terrorism, modern warfare, technology*