

UAV in the Ukraine War

The data demonstrates that the realities of the war diverged considerably from the public narrative. To take an example, many have speculated that Russian electronic warfare systems – comprising interference with electronic systems – have been ineffective. Just look at the proliferation of uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) throughout the conflict: surely Russian electronic warfare and air defences could have neutralised these technologies. Yet UAVs have proven their usefulness. The Ukrainian military would agree that the overview of the battlefield they offer is vital.

However, the operational data reveals that 90 per cent of Ukrainian UAVs flown before July were lost, mainly to electronic warfare. The average life expectancy of a quadcopter was three flights. The average life expectancy of a fixed wing UAV was six flights. Surviving a flight does not mean a successful mission; electronic warfare can disrupt command links, navigation and sensors, which can cause the UAV to fail to fix a target. Contrary to the narrative, Russian EW has been successful on the battlefield. Instead, what has proved decisive is the sheer number of drones that Ukraine has been able to deploy. The most useful UAVs, according to the data, are cheap fixed wing models. This is not because they are difficult to defeat but because they are inefficient to target, flying too high for short-range air defences while being too inexpensive to engage with medium or long-range systems.

This is a good example of where having both sides of the equation – Russian and Ukrainian – is critical to identifying the right lessons from Ukraine. Beyond confirming that Russian electronic warfare is effective – and that the lack of NATO investment in this area is a mistake – the loss rate also demands a re-evaluation of how NATO armies think about UAVs. At present, UAVs are treated like aircraft. They come under flight control and in the UK must be assured for flight by the Military Aviation Authority. This means that the force cannot generate large numbers of trained operators and limits how many UAVs can be deployed. UAVs are therefore designed to have higher payloads and longer flight times to compensate, driving up cost. Instead, UAVs need to be cheap, mass producible, and treated like munitions. The regulatory framework for their use should be changed.

Sourced:

Daily Kos News

Hurricane Ian : Florida 09/2022

Drone users hampering rescue efforts

Guthrie, of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, says drones are hampering rescue operations and becoming an "issue".

"Please do not operate your drones in the areas where we have military aircraft, search-and-rescue aircraft working," he says.

"When you go in there with your drone they have to stop working."

Sourced:

BBC News 09/2022

Nepal moves to limit drone flights following earthquake

Drone operators will need permission from the country's aviation authority following complaints in affected areas



A drone flies over buildings destroyed after last week's earthquake in Bhaktapur, Nepal, 2 May, 2015. Photograph: Olivia Harris/Reuters

The Nepalese government has cracked down on unmanned aerial vehicles following the magnitude 7.8 that hit the country in late April.

Operators who want to fly UAVs in Nepal will now have to ask for, and receive, permission from the country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAAN), according to an official from the organisation.

The Nepalese tourism ministry [says](#) the new regulations have been put in place following complaints from citizens about the use of drones to collect news and pictures.

Previously, use of non-combat drones in the country had been sparsely regulated. [British NGOs have been using drones](#) to assess the extent of damage from the earthquake, as well as to aid search-and-rescue operations in the area.

Similarly, [a number of photographers](#) in Nepal have used drones as part of their reportage from the epicentre of the earthquake, [to highlight the "devastation" in the area](#).

But [according to a statement given to the Indo Asian News Service](#), the Nepalese government is concerned that the footage also contains images of historic artefacts "which could be misused later".

Sourced:

The Guardian News 05/2015