



Military Robots The German Case

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Outline of the presentation

- 1) **The German Bundeswehr & Drones: A Technology Laggard?**
- 2) **The Debate About German Procurement of Armed Drones**
- 3) **The “Debate” About Extrajudicial Killings by the USA**

The German Bundeswehr & Drones: A Technology Laggard?

- // Small tactical drones have been used for some decades
- // 2009: leasing of 3 Israeli „Heron I“ (MALE) for Afghanistan via Rheinmetall
- // Before: interest in US-Reaper (unarmed)
- // Heron I considered an „interim solution“
 - no European fieldable drone
 - off-the-shelf solution

The German Bundeswehr & Drones: A Technology Laggard?

- // Leasing contract renewed in October 2012**
- // Since 2012: first „Euro Hawk“ (HALE) tests**
- // Up to now: no armed drones**
- // Heron:**
 - // can be armed in principle ...**
 - // ... but German „pilots“ received no respective training (according to parliamentary question)**

The Debate about Procurement of UCAVs

- // **Until Summer 2012: no official position whatsoever regarding German UCAVs**
- // **Within the Bundeswehr: great interest amongst soldiers but no ministerial statement**
- // **TV report about potential procurement → MoD spokesperson promises „public debate“ → press picks up on the issue →**
- // **Defence Minister de Maizière:
Bundeswehr *should* procure UCAVs**

The Debate about Procurement of UCAVs

- // **De Maiziére: weapons are „ethically neutral“**
- // **Most recent proponent: chief of the Luftwaffe, Gen. Müller**
- // **Arguments: force protection & capability of world-wide intervention**
- // **Müller: Reaper weapon of choice**
- // **Not much public criticism**

The Debate about the US Use of Drones

- // Debate about extrajudicial killings: featured by some major magazines, especially „Der Spiegel“**
- // Focus on civilian casualties, but mixed reception**
- // Totally separated debate: German government receives leap of faith not to break IHL/International Law**
- // de Maiziére: „displeased“ with CIA attacks but no „official“ position**

Summary

- // **Questions: when and what systems rather than whether at all**
- // **Perception in Germany:
German government will use UCAVs with restraint**
- // **CIA attacks: American problem rather than a „drone problem“**