

WORC 2024



World Overflight Risk Conference

2 - 4 July 2024 | Warsaw, Poland

The Changing Face of Conflict. Are we ready?

Matthew Borie - Osprey Flight Solutions

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Military-Grade Weaponised Drones

- ✈ Military-grade weaponised drone use has expanded globally since 2014
- ✈ State-actor use in conflict becoming ever present to overcome manned aircraft limitations
- ✈ Non-state actor use is now emerging across multiple continents and conflict zones



Loitering Air-Defence Weapons

- ✈ Combining the portability of a MANPADS with altitude of a conventional SAM system
- ✈ Example: US-made Coyote loitering air-defence weapon
- ✈ Example: Iranian-made '358' loitering air-defence weapon
- ✈ Several areas where these weapons are currently in use
 - ✈ Iran
 - ✈ Iraq
 - ✈ Syria
 - ✈ Lebanon
 - ✈ Yemen



Conclusion

Drones are not substitutes for manned aircraft, artillery or missiles, but rather complements to existing weapons. However, as drones more broadly share real-time information and become more autonomous, they will further shape state actor doctrine and organizational structures.

Loitering munitions – including air-defence systems – will continue to increase the complexity of future battlespaces as both the technology and concepts mature. In the coming years, state actors will optimize loitering air-defence weapons in lethality by size, payload, altitude and endurance for more effective employment.

Non-state actor access to the above types of conventional weapon systems adds a further layer of complexity of the airspace operating environment near and over conflict zones globally.

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