Transforming Joint Air and Space Power

The Journal of the JAPCC

Edition 34, Summer 2022

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100 Years of the Italian Air Force

Interview with the Chief of the Italian Air Force

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Human-Machine Interface: An Evolutionary Necessity

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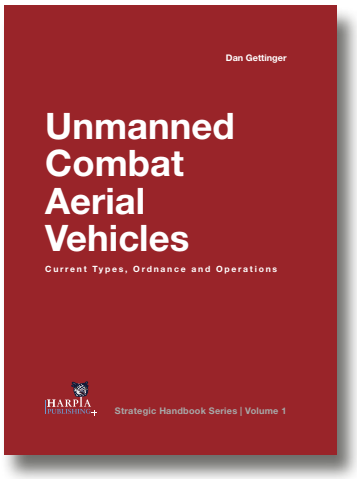
The Next 'Small Step for Man' in the Metaverse

‘Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles’



By Dan Gettinger; Harpia Publishing L.L.C.; 2021

Reviewed by:

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Current Types, Ordnance and Operations (Strategic Handbook Series 1)

The evolution of technology and the development of Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) in the last 20 years has revolutionized the capability of modern armies, especially in the areas of acquisition of information, target identifications, and real-time engagements.

This is the first volume of a Strategic Handbook Series that documents the UCAVs that are in development or already deployed, while also depicting the global operations in which they have been used. With definitions and classifications and setting out specifications of modern-day UAV manufacturers, this strategic book also provides readers a guide to navigating through today’s world of armed UAVs and drones’ munitions. The manual is organized logically, based on valid sources, and was devised in collaboration with the now closed Center for the Study of the Drone.

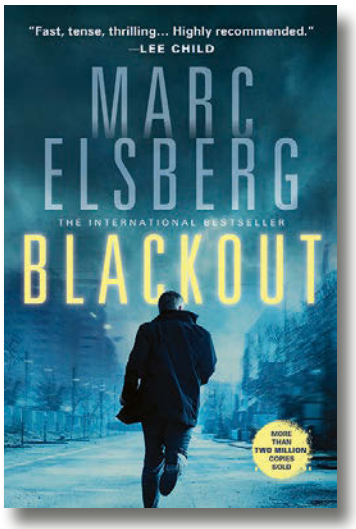
Although the technical data is not to be considered exhaustive, the manual represents a valid reference point for future developments in the UCAV sector, especially in light of the recent operations carried out by the UCAVs in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict. Moreover, the Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles Handbook represents an easy-to-read technical documentation for experts as well as non-experts.

‘Blackout’

Blackout is an international bestselling thriller, describing a realistic scenario of a well-prepared coordinated attack against both the European and US power systems. Pre-installed malicious software is suddenly activated, creating misleading input into power grids’ hardware, leading to arson and compromising several communications networks.

With no electrical power for nearly a fortnight, many unforeseen situations unfold. The resulting cascading effects illustrate the unpreparedness and vulnerability of both people and organizations, which causes many casualties due to various reasons. Whilst attempting to implement recovery measures, new unexpected pitfalls arise. Only with the help of a former Italian hacker, the security and counterterrorism agencies manage to prevent further disruptions and to capture a group of anarchists. Although this book was written in 2012, the key message is still valid. Our lives and activities are intertwined with technology which demand continuous access to electrical power. Current resilience measures may not be effective enough, if a long-lasting power outage occurs. Besides assessing pre-planned resilience attack concepts, an analysis needs to be conducted with respect to additional disruptive activities during a recovery phase. The Alliance can benefit from this terrifying non-kinetic scenario by projecting the presented disruptive events on their own organizations as a vector for enhancing their resilience.

I highly recommend that ‘power users’, in both the operational and the support domains, read this realistic thriller.



By Marc Elsberg; Sourcebooks Inc; June 2017

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