

Awyrennau di-beilot ... Rôl Cymru yn y lladd rhwydd

Beth yw awyrennau di-beilot?

Fel mae'r enw'n awgrymu, awyrennau bychain ydyn nhw sy'n hedfan heb beilot. Gan amlaf rheolir nhw o'r llawr, ond mae rhai yn cael eu datblygu hefyd sydd yn "ymreolus", sef wedi'u rhaglenni ymlaen llaw i wneud gwahanol bethau. Maent yn cael eu defnyddio i ysbïo, ac mae rhai hefyd yn gallu cario bomiau a thaflegrau.



Llun: United States Air Force

Cafodd awyrennau di-beilot arfog eu defnyddio gyntaf yn 2002, ac ers hynny mae eu defnydd wedi bod yn cynyddu'n barhaus.

Lladd rhwydd a rhad

Peth handi ydy awyren ddi-beilot: Mae'n llai costus i'w chynhyrchu a'i rhedeg nag awyren arferol a does dim perygl i'ch milwyr eich hun, sy'n eistedd yn ddiogel mewn swyddfa a all fod yn filoedd o filltiroedd i ffwrdd. Mae hyn yn achos pryder i ni: Po leiaf y gost i'r ymosodwr, mwyaf y tebygolrwydd iddo ymosod.

Pobl ddiniwed yn dioddef

Mae cynhyrchwyr awyrennau di-beilot a'r lluoedd sy'n eu defnyddio'n honni bod eu camerâu a synwryddion mor wych fel y gellir targedu milwyr neu leoliadau milwrol yn fanwl gywir. Cafodd yr honiad yma ei danseilio'n amlwg ym mis Ebrill 2011, pan laddwyd dau filwr o'r Unol Daleithiau gan un o awyrennau di-beilot eu lluoedd eu hun yn Afghanistan.

Er nad oes gwybodaeth ar gael am yr holl bobl a laddwyd gan awyrennau di-beilot, mae ffigyrau ceidwadol o Bacistan yn awgrymu bod o leiaf traean yn bobl gyffredin ddiniwed¹, ac yn ôl ffynhonnell arall mae'r gymhareb yn fwy tebyg i 50 o bobl gyffredin am un ymladdwr.²

1 <http://counterterrorism.newamerica.net/drones>

2 *Amir Mir: '60 drone hits kill 14 al-Qaida men, 687 civilians', 10 Ebrill 2009 ar www.thenews.com*

Ysbïo ar drigolion lleol

Er mwyn ymestyn eu marchnadoedd mae gwneuthurwyr awyrennau di-beilot yn chwilio am ffyrdd o'u defnyddio at ddibenion sifil, gan gynnwys gwyliadwriaeth ddomestig. Gall awyrennau di-beilot ar y cyd â thechnolegau eraill hyd yn oed wneud yn bosibl adnabod wynebau a symudiadau'n awtomatig yn ogystal â monitro sgysiau unigol. Gan eu bod yn gymharol rhad a hawdd eu defnyddio byddant yn temtio unrhyw awdurdod sydd eisiau gwybod mwy am ei ddinasyddion.

Arbrofi yng Nghymru

Dim ond llond llaw o leoedd sydd yn Ewrop ar hyn o bryd lle mae hawl i awyrennau di-beilot gael eu harbrofi, a'r ardal rhwng Mynydd Epynt ym Mrycheiniog ac Aberporth ar arfordir Ceredigion yw un ohonynt. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru hefyd wedi sicrhau'r hawl cynllunio i hedfan awyrennau di-beilot o faes awyr Llanbedr ym Meirionnydd ac wedi rhoi les i gwmni preifat ei ddatblygu.

Mae hyn yn rhan o strategaeth Llywodraeth Cymru i ddenu swyddi yn y sector "awyr-ofod" i Gymru. Maent wedi gwario dros £16,000,000 ar Barc Aberporth er mwyn creu "canolfan ardderchowgrwydd" ym maes awyrennau di-beilot, oedd i fod i greu 230 o swyddi yn ôl disgwyliadau 2004. Fodd bynnag, dim ond 37 o bobl fu yn gweithio yno ar ddechrau 2011.

Yr un pryd mae trigolion yr ardal yn gorfod byw gyda sŵn yr awyrennau yn ogystal â'u perygl, a welwyd ym Medi 2009 ac Awst 2010 pan gwmpodd dwy awyren ddi-beilot oedd wedi cychwyn o faes awyr Aberporth. Drwy lwc anafwyd neb pryd hynny.

Dydyn ni ddim eisiau nhw

Rydym ni'n credu nad oes lle i awyrennau di-beilot yn awyr Cymru. Mae traddodiad hir o heddychiaeth gan Gymru, ac rydyn ni heddiw eisiau swyddi adeiladol a chynaliadwy, nid cael ein defnyddio i weithio mewn swyddi "awyr-ofod" sy'n llyncu adnoddau ac yn hybu militariaeth.



Ymunwch â ni yn yr ymgyrch. Cysylltwch â Chymdeithas y Cymod ar 01286-830913 neu cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com.

Am ragor o wybodaeth am awyrennau di-beilot gweler y wefan <http://dronewarsuk.wordpress.com>.

Drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) Wales' role in the convenient killing

What are drones?

Drones are aircraft that fly without a pilot. They are normally controlled from the ground, but “autonomous” ones are also being developed, i.e. ones that are programmed beforehand to do certain things.

They are used for spying, and some can also carry bombs and missiles.



Picture: United States Air Force

Armed drones were first used in 2002, and since then their use has increased continuously.

Cheap and convenient killing

A drone is handy: It is cheaper to produce and to run than a manned aircraft and there is no danger to your own pilots, who are sitting safely in an office that can be thousands of miles away. This is a cause for concern to us: The less the cost to the attacker, the greater the likelihood that they will attack.

Civilian victims

According to the manufacturers of drones and the forces who use them their cameras and sensors are so refined that they can target soldiers or military sites with perfect precision. This claim became obviously untenable in April 2011, when two US soldiers were killed by one of their own forces' drones in Afghanistan.

Although there isn't information available about all the people killed by drones, conservative figures from Pakistan suggest that at least a third of them are innocent civilians¹, and according to another source the ratio is closer to 50 civilians for every militant.²

1 <http://counterterrorism.newamerica.net/drones>

2 *Amir Mir: '60 drone hits kill 14 al-Quaida men, 687 civilians', 10 April 2009 on www.thenews.com*

Spying on local residents

Drone manufacturers are also looking for civilian uses for drones to expand their markets, which includes the use of drones for domestic surveillance. Drones in combination with other technologies may even make possible machine recognition of faces and behaviours and the monitoring of individual conversations. Relatively cheap and easy to use, they will be tempting for any authority that wants to know more about its citizens.

Test flights in Wales

Currently there are only a handful of areas in Europe where it is permitted to test drones, and the area between Epynt Mountain in Powys and Aberporth on the Cardigan coast is one of them. The Welsh Government has also secured the land use right for drones to be flown from the airfield of Llanbedr near Harlech and granted a lease to a private company to develop it.

This is part of the Welsh Government's strategy to attract jobs in the "aerospace" sector to Wales. It has spent over £16,000,000 on Parc Aberporth in order to establish a "centre of excellence" in unmanned aerial vehicles, which was to create 230 jobs according to 2004 expectations. In early 2011 however only 37 people were employed there.

Meanwhile local residents have to put up with the noise of the drones as well as their danger, which became obvious in September 2009 and in August 2010, when two drones that had set off from the Aberporth airfield crashed. Luckily nobody was injured at the time.

We don't want them

We believe that there is no space for drones in Wales. Wales has a long tradition of pacifism, and we want constructive and sustainable jobs rather than having to work in the aerospace industry that devours resources and propagates militarism.



To join our campaign, contact Cymdeithas y Cymod on cymdeithasycymod@btinternet.com or 01286-830913.

For further information on drones see the website <http://dronewarsuk.wordpress.com>.