

DRONES VERSUS SECURITY OR DRONES FOR SECURITY?

*Anton MANDA, PhD candidate**

***Abstract:** Drones represent the most controversial subject when it comes to the dimension of national security. This technological development has implications politically as well as when it comes to practices pertaining to the field of national defense. Quite expectedly, the simple matter of putting a camera on an aircraft changed the way we perceive information gathering and actions during warfare, giving greater room for maneuver to persons using them. On the other hand, technology has allowed for the creation of remotely controlled devices. By combining these two characteristics, drones were created. They started representing a new instrument in warfare, humanitarian actions and even policy making. It is the purpose of this paper to briefly discuss the conceptual and practical implications of drone technology for national security, policy making and information gathering, with comments also in the field of intelligence which brings together all aspects in its practice.*

***Key Words:** security, national security, technology, drones, information, intelligence practices.*

The thought behind drones

Nowadays, drones are states' secret weapon. Be it for surveillance or delivering missions, drones have the comparative advantage of being Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, which means that they do not require humans to carry out missions.

Their first employment for the purpose of national security was however as a means to deliver explosives too hard to reach sites. It was only during the '60s, in the Vietnam war carried out by the United States¹, that drones were beginning to be used as a means to gather information, perform

* Lawyer at 'Law office Manda Anton', Bucharest, mobile 0722/404126, e-mail: avmandat@yahoo.com

¹ Thomas Mahnken, *Technology and the War in Vietnam 1963-1975*, Columbia University Press, USA, 2008, p. 113