

# MILITARY ROBOTS AND THEIR ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

A talk by

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S.W.O.R.D.S. armed ground vehicle



Unmanned aircraft armed with missiles

What do the two military vehicles in these pictures have in common? **Neither the SWORDS tank nor the Predator aircraft has a human operator on board.** What will happen if/when robotic vehicles, equipped with lethal weapons, are given the ability to use them without human supervision? Can such robots obey the Geneva Conventions, the "Laws of War," and the "Rules of Engagement"?

**Dr. George A. Bekey** is a Research Scholar in Residence and Adjunct Professor at Cal Poly, and Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Southern California. He has over 20 years of experience in robotics research, has published numerous papers and books on the subject, and has been honored for his work. At USC he developed the Robotics Research Laboratory and the academic program in robotics.

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