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Samuel Bendett

AI and Autonomy in Russia



CNA – Russia Studies Program

CNA is a federally funded research and development center (FFRDC) serving the US Department of the Navy and other US defense agencies.

Russia Program research areas:

- Russian Military Technology Development
- Military Autonomy and AI
- Decision Making: Risk Calculus and Escalation
- Military Capabilities and Defense-Industrial Complex

AI-related research involves bi-weekly newsletters and a report on the state of Russian civilian and military artificial intelligence and autonomy.

Russian civilian AI development



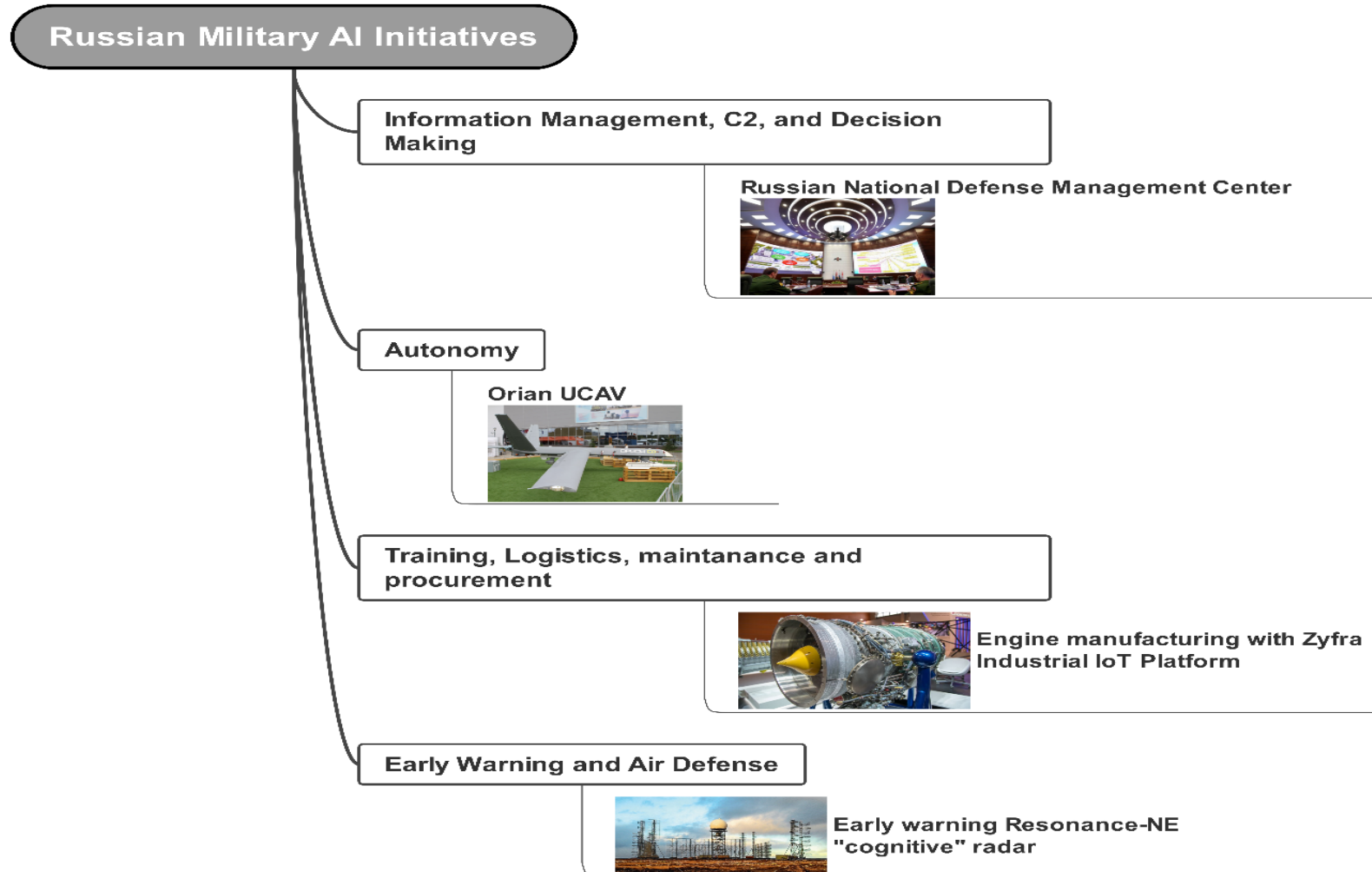
Russian military autonomy and AI



Digitization. Although the Russian government has not officially defined this term, it appears often in Russian writings on the confluence of technology and military capabilities. Digitization is largely understood as the “widespread introduction, development, and application of information technology in the military.” The application of information technology to the military is leading to a qualitative transformation in military capability that will dramatically affect weapons systems and the ways in which they are employed.

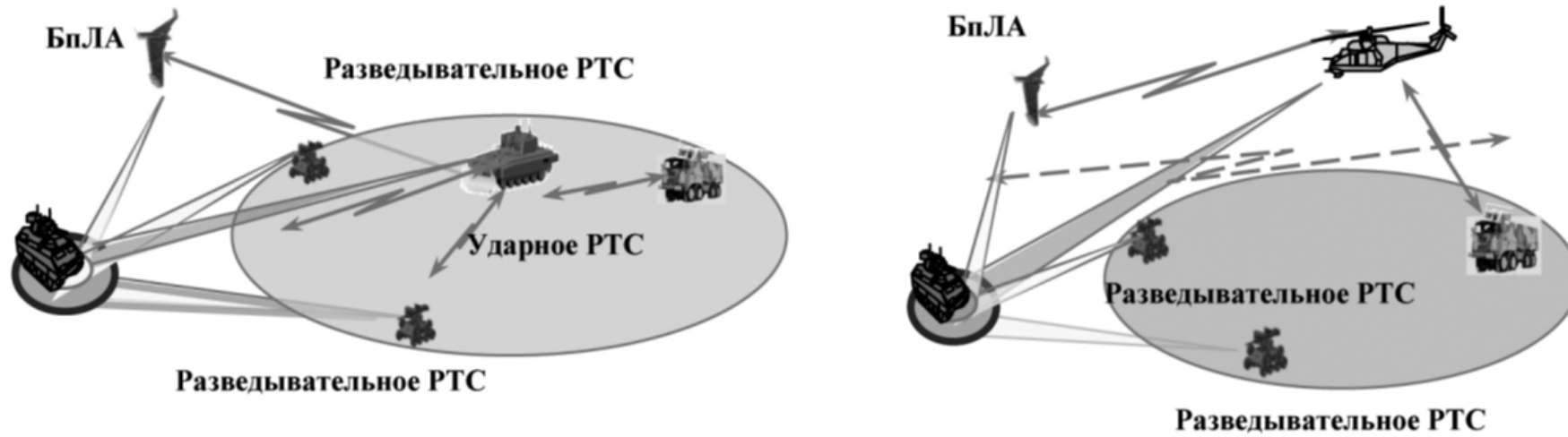
Intellectualization. Also not officially defined, one professional military journal refers to intellectualization as the widespread implementation of AI [presumably the military in this context] “capable of performing creative functions that are traditionally considered the prerogative of a person (i.e., perceived by a person as reasonable).” Another earlier description from 2008 refers to the introduction of specially developed “intelligent” systems created by human experts, stored in databases that are created in advance, that increase the efficiency of information processes.

Russian military autonomy and AI



How does this all work together?

Многофункциональность элемента боевого порядка



Совместная автономность элемента боевого порядка



Комплексная реакция элемента боевого порядка

Russian military autonomy and AI



Problems, Hurdles and Issues

- Overcoming technical issues and deficiencies.
- Government and state leadership trying to adopt historically private-sector operational and growth principles.
- Ethics and human-in-the-loop.



Questions?

Bendetts@cna.org

Twitter: @SamBendett

Russia Studies Program:

<https://www.cna.org/centers/cna/sppp/rsp/>

“AI and Autonomy in Russia”
report:

<https://www.cna.org/centers/cna/sppp/rsp/russia-ai>

