

UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES - WHY? - MATTHIEU -1S

Unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones, are becoming more and more popular among hobbyists but also the military and government agencies.

So, what are they? As the name indicates, UAVs are vehicles which can fly with nobody inside. The operator of the drone, the “pilot”, operates the drone from a distance. There are different types of drones, the most popular being plane-like and others looking more like helicopters, quad-copters.

So, we talked about drones being used by the military. These drones generally look like unmanned planes, as they are designed to cover great distances and carry heavy weaponry (bringing democracy in the form of missiles). Government drones are often similar, though much smaller and lighter, as they’re usually used for surveillance.



United States Military drone bringing democracy to countries in conflict.



The second type of drone, which looks more like a helicopter, is called a quad-copter. This is a result of its design, which includes four propellers. This design, which you can see on the second illustration, makes this drone a lot more stable but also more fragile (more points of failure) and unable to carry heavy loads. Just like the plane-like drone, it has the bare-minimum needed for it to be able to take off and carry out its task: four propellers and their corresponding motors, a battery, the flight controller (we wouldn’t want our drone to go rogue!) and of course the camera/load mount.

To conclude, we can say that drones are a new type of aerial vehicles which are quickly gaining popularity. However, at their current states, they are quite limited and those with superior capabilities are limited to the military. To add to this, it is illegal in many countries to fly drones without a proper license. Hobby drones used to help victims of floods in the US were confiscated by the government, which incidentally was source of a large scandal.