

McCain Wants it All

I have a comment on Adam J Hebert's April editorial "An Air Force at War on the Home Front" [p. 4]. While the A-10 aircraft are stationed at a base in Arizona, McCain's home state, they are not stationed at Luke AFB, but rather at Davis-Monthan AFB in Tucson. Luke AFB, near Phoenix, is home to F-35A aircraft and will eventually have 144 F-35 aircraft. So, Senator McCain wants a win-win outcome, both A-10 and F-35 infrastructure to remain in Arizona.

Kirk R. Warburton
Kirkland, Wash.

Bull's Eye

Kudos in a big way to Sam McGowan for his in-depth article about the C-130 and the Commando Vault missions in the April 2016 edition of your fine magazine [*"Herculean Ordnance,"* p. 58].

I was a loadmaster assigned first to the 29th TAS and then the 774th TAS at Clark AB from January 1970 until August of 1971. I was one of several loads who

became qualified to drop BLU-82 bombs during our rotations to Cam Ranh Bay. I still have the nose cone from my first bomb drop.

Mr. McGowan's story is absolutely spot on from my own recollections. Thank you for bringing up that small part of what loadmasters, many of us just 19 and 20 years old at the time, did back then. Keep up the good work.

Bill Carroll,
USAFR (Ret.)
Chicopee, Mass.

Don't Be So Sure

"We're not going to turn the employment of weapons over to a machine. ... It ain't going to happen." With all due respect to the Mitchell Institute Dean, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) [David] Deptula, these comments strike me as somewhat near-sighted [*"Rise of the Machines,"* April, p. 28].

First of all, we already have certain classes of autonomous capability—missile defense systems in automatic

mode are a good example today. More importantly, most *Air Force Magazine* readers will recognize one inconvenient truth: Those who say something will never happen are more often wrong and those who believe something is possible are more often proven right. In the case of lethal autonomous machines (LAMs) one can easily imagine myriad scenarios where this capability will not only be advantageous, but necessary—as Mathewson implied. For example, consider the idea of attack zones and how planners might invert their thinking about using LAMs. The LAM (my new term) would require "inside the box thinking"—meaning: No killing outside the box, raise hell inside the box! The future of LAMs is upon us and the sooner we stop worrying about it and begin learning how to exploit it, the more likely we are to win the next complex fight. Our adversaries understand this!

Col. W. Michael Guillot,
USAF (Ret.)
Montgomery, Ala.

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