

Carnegie Military University

Dedicating brilliant young minds to science and engineering shouldn't have to mean dreaming up ways to kill people.

MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL-ACADEMIC-COMPLEX

WAR isn't "just" a matter of conflict, politics, or even defending ourselves. War is also driven by large companies who profit from war by selling expensive weapons to the Pentagon.

These companies need a few things to keep their stock prices up. (1) They need wars. (2) They need politicians who can be frightened (or financed) into spending nearly \$400 billion/year on defense (that's 40x what we spend on humanitarian assistance). (3) They need brilliant people to develop new and efficient ways to kill people. And they need a place to do this research. That's where CMU comes in.

Weapons contractors like Lockheed and Boeing get to do product development at CMU. If you asked students what they'd most want their gifts and talents used for, the majority would probably not say "Blowing people up." But universities continue serve a critical purpose for weapons contractors, which only they can fulfill: providing access to bright young minds, research, and the legitimization of war and weapons as high and honorable pursuits.

The DoD directly supports scientific and technological research in colleges and universities through several ways. Sometimes the military funds a single researcher working on a project of small to medium scale. Another method is through University Research Initiative programs. These are designed to address specific scientific and technical challenges to military programs while fostering cooperation across disciplines and institutional boundaries. The third method of military support in universities is through the establishment of centers, institutes, or laboratories. (CMU's Software Engineering Institute and the Center for Computer and Communications Security are two examples.)

In addition to funds from weapons contractors and the DoD, the Department of Homeland Security, NASA, the Department of Energy and even NSF supply funds for military-related research.



THE DARK SIDE OF CMU

As one of the largest academic military contractors in the country, CMU is major contributor to the US war effort. Many of the software guidance systems, general communications networking systems, and some of the robotics technology used in Iraq were developed at CMU.

CMU officials and faculty try to downplay their military ties by claiming that their research doesn't directly support US war-fighting. For example, when questioned about weapons development in September, 2002, CMU President Jared Cohon stated, "We don't know how to build tanks – we don't build weapons systems."

But last April, CMU's National Robotics Engineering Consortium (NREC) was awarded a multi-million dollar contract to develop a "Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicle" (TUGV) for the U.S. Marines called "Gladiator". Gladiator is the latest installment of a long line of progressively more militaristic robotics projects at CMU.



According to the Robotics Institute's own website, "The TUGV is planned to be a robust, easy-to-transport, unmanned, semi-autonomous, multi-purpose ground vehicle system possessing a scouting and direct engagement capability. It will provide the Marines with remote reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA); nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) reconnaissance; obstacle breaching; and direct fire capability to neutralize threats and reduce risk to the war fighter."

According to a recent article, a concept version was demonstrated at Marines' Camp Smith in Hawaii, "launching dozens of smoke rounds downrange that could have been tear gas, or stingball and flashbang grenades." Apparently it has also an M240G medium machine gun.

Making "semi-autonomous" robots like Gladiator further dehumanizes warfare. Sure, it might result in fewer U.S. casualties, but that makes going to war easier. Plus, when robots make decisions about who can and should be killed we remove the last vestiges of humanity in the battlefield. However intelligent an AI system like Gladiator might be, it clearly lacks the ability to make moral judgments.

MORE TALES FROM THE DARK SIDE OF CMU

In a climate of shrinking funding for socially responsible projects, members of the CMU are increasingly pressured into working on military-funded projects. Whether it's for pure or applied research, working on a project that receives military funding contributes to the interests of the military and weapons contractors and pushes CMU deeper into a mindset that glorifies military power, hardware and technology as its primary problem-solving tools. (Some argue that "pure" research--even funded by the Military--is morally acceptable. But step by step, one can slide into battlefield management and killer robots as the story about Gladiator proves.)

The percentage of the Robotics Institute's funding that came from the DoD last year.

75%

The percentage of CMU's total federal research funding that came from the DoD.

40%

As CMU's military ties grow, the local economy also becomes more militarized. Local businesses sub-contract with CMU and more and more

individuals become part of the military-academic-industrial-complex. CMU is our guest. Pittsburgh residents should have a say in whether or not one of its leading institutions is a major contributor to increasing militarism of the their own communities and the country at large.

The consequences of increasing militarism of universities in general is that more and more individuals will be pressured to take jobs and contribute to the "War Machine" and the cycle of violence that led to 9-11, the War on Iraq, and other military conflicts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Support Pittsburgh Organizing Group's and CMU's Progressive Student Alliance's efforts to hold CMU accountable.

Write to President Cohon in support of our demands.

Educate others about the scope of CMU's military ties and their dangerous effects.

POG'S DEMANDS OF CARNEGIE MELLON

We demand that Carnegie Mellon and all its affiliated institutions :

1. Provide FULL and ACCESSIBLE disclosure on the scope of past and current military projects and their sources of funding.

- 1.1. Many students, faculty, and staff are unaware that the research and projects they are involved in are funded by, and for the benefit of, the military and its related agencies. So that students who wish to opt out of experimentation on those grounds can do so (knowledge being a necessary component of informed consent) we demand that principal investigators include in their consent forms a statement clearly naming the funders & sponsors of the research experiment, particularly if these sponsors include any of the following military funding agencies:

AFOSR: Air Force Office of Scientific Research
ARO: Army Research Office
ONR: Office of Naval Research
DARPA: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
DoD: Department of Defense
DHS: Department of Homeland Security
MDA: Missile Defense Agency
DLA: Defense Logistics Agency
NSA: National Security Agency
LANL: Los Alamos National Lab
LLNL: Lawrence Livermore National Lab
SNL: Sandia National Lab

or any of the 100 largest military contractors (or their subsidiaries), including Lockheed Martin Corporation, Boeing Company, The Northrop Grumman Corporation, General Dynamics Corporation, Raytheon Company, United Technologies Corporation, Halliburton Company, General Electric Company, Science Applications International Corp., Computer Sciences Corporation. (See the complete list at www.dior.whs.mil/peidhome/procstat/P01/fy2003/P01FY03-top100-table1.pdf)

- 1.2. We further demand that the Associate Provost for Research & Academic Administration collect materials from each department so involved, itemizing and totaling the funding for each research contract received by that department from the military funding agencies and corporations with military contracts listed above in section 1.1 within the last three fiscal years, and that these materials be compiled into a single, publicly accessible document.

2. Declare an immediate moratorium on the approval of new military-related projects and contracts, including projects funded by any of the agencies and corporations listed in section 1.1.

3. End its cooperative ROTC program with the University of Pittsburgh.

4. Cancel current projects with direct military applications, especially including Tactical Unmanned Ground Vehicles and Unmanned Ground Combat Vehicles being developed by the Robotics Institute and the National Robotics Engineering Consortium.

5. Begin discussions with students, faculty, staff and members of the local community on how to best end its ties to the Military-Industrial complex by re-directing the University's human resources and energy towards research and development with more humanitarian ends.