



A look at AI in the military and how it's already impacting the American workforce

Scott Thuman

September 7, 2020

WASHINGTON (SBG) – It's a look at the possible future of the military: artificial intelligence-controlled aircraft.

Last month, an AI "pilot" beat one of the Air Force's top F-16 fighter jet pilots in a simulated aerial dogfight in a 5-0 sweep.

"The standard things we do as fighter pilots are not working, right, so for this last one, I'm going to try and change it up a little bit," the F-16 pilot said during the simulation.

It was considered a major win by some on how the robotics can take the nation to new heights -- but others may not be so quick to get on board.

"I think it raises tons of difficult, ethical questions as well as questions, I'm sure, in international law about responsibility," explained Matthew Feeney, the director of the Cato Institute's Project on Emerging Technologies.

As the military is making AI advancements, so are companies on the ground, more directly impacting the average American.

Between 2000 and 2017, 5.5 million manufacturing jobs were lost in the U.S. and up to 20 million more could be replaced globally by robots by 2030.

“AI outcompeting a fighter pilot is very, very sexy and glamorous, but the stuff worries me the most...is you have Google rolling out AI. They can do the work of call center workers," former presidential candidate Andrew Yang told Sinclair. "Driving a truck is the most common job in 29 states, and over seven million workers in truck stops motels and diners that rely on truckers getting out and having a meal every day.”

Some politicians, including President Donald Trump, have campaigned on bringing back more traditional manufacturing positions.

“We live in a global world and America trying to get back to this manufacturing age that politicians seem to romanticize will not stop other countries around the world nonetheless moving forward," Feeney explained.

As for Vice President Joe Biden’s plan, he says he wants to provide financial incentives that will help revitalize those smaller companies and says he doesn’t believe that the “vitality of American manufacturing is a thing of the past."