

When I was in the workforce, my job description as a teacher changed each year with the newest technological advances. Now that I am retired, my private life is constantly being altered by technology; The way I shop and how I communicate, even the way I cook and how I drive a car, are constantly changing, bit by bit, and sometimes by leaps and bounds. I understand that it may not be UPS or Federal Express delivering my Amazon order, but a drone.

It's not that I haven't heard of drones; I know that our government uses them in military operations. We all remember when a drone crashed into the lawn of the White House. My first reaction was, "How is this going to affect our nation's security and what is our government doing about it?"

Known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAV.s, drones are in the spotlight now because of the potential threat they pose to our National Security. Not only is our government and those of our allies using them, but our adversaries are using them as well. Experts say that countries such as Russia and China are hard at work developing advanced drones. It has been reported that the State of Islam has surveillance drone capabilities.

Recently in July of this year, a two-week exercise known as "Black Dart" took place at Naval Base Ventura County Sea Range In Point Mugu, California. It was the Defense Department's largest live fly, live-fire counter-drone demonstration to ever take place. About 700 military personnel and members of industry gathered on a strip of marshland along the Pacific coast to test new anti-unmanned aerial vehicle technology. Fifty-five systems were tested during this year's exercise.

Black Dart has been under the operation of the Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization since 2010 after being created in 2002 under the Defense Intelligence Agency. Black Dart was classified until its 2014 demonstration. Now that Black Dart is no longer secret, industry is taking note according to Rear Admiral Jesse A. Wilson, Jr., director of JIAMD. He also stated that our government is working tirelessly to improve our capabilities in order to stay ahead of our adversaries' capabilities. Industry is committed to providing the tools needed to counter the rapidly evolving threat.

If I have trouble sleeping tonight, it won't be for worry that my government isn't working hard to protect us from the threat of UAV's in the hands of our enemies, but rather for worry that the GPS in Amazon's drone isn't any better than the one in mycar.

Information taken from the September 2015 issue of National Defense, *How the Military Prepare for a Future Drone War* by Yasmin Tadjeh, pp. 34-36.