

Defense Debrief

WORTH A READ:

1 **USMC Moves Forward with Loitering Munitions Contract Award** ([Article Link](#))

The USMC has taken a step in the right direction with the announcement of initial contract awards to Teledyne FLIR, Anduril Industries, and AeroVironment for Organic Precision Fires-Light (OPF-L). This award aims to deliver a first batch of loitering munitions systems to the USMC this summer. The vertical take-off and landing capability will provide the USMC with precision strike capabilities beyond-line-of-sight.

Given the successes we have seen with loitering munitions in Ukraine, this marks an exciting step forward for the Marine Corps, both in terms of the capability itself as well as the speed to delivery. In a June of 2023 update regarding the progress of the USMC's Force Design 2030 initiative, Deputy Commandant of Combat Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl expressed frustration regarding the slow pace of Organic Precision Fires Development. Hopefully this recent award will provide the momentum needed to support continued investment by both the DOD and industry.

2 **Data Sharing & Security for AI** ([Article Link](#))

Sharing an article highlighting recent comments from the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) highlighting the importance of secure data sharing in realizing the full benefits of AI for defense applications. In this article, Jinyoung Englund, chief strategy officer for algorithmic warfare at CDAO discusses the importance of "sharing quality and secure data amongst DOD, allies and partners plays in order to combat adversaries in the AI battle."

If CDAO champions this initiative, industry will need to respond by including the following in future proposals:

- 1) Offering greater flexibility in data rights to facilitate data sharing
- 2) Developing clear data strategies as key elements of competitive proposals
- 3) Enhancing cybersecurity on all data and AI elements

WORTH A LISTEN:

3 **Mike Kofman and Rob Lee on Drones in Ukraine** ([Episode Link](#))

An insightful episode of the War on the Rocks podcast in which Michael Kofman and Rob Lee share their perspectives on the evolving use of drone in Ukraine. Mike and Rob outline the successes and failures of drone usage for both the Ukrainian and Russian forces, with insights on the implications on the ongoing conflict. I found the discussion on the evolution of FPV drone strategies, tactics, and capabilities particularly compelling.

- 1) The discussion starts with Ukrainian innovation in the early days of the Russian invasion, successfully deploying low-tech FPVs for anti-armor and anti-personnel missions
- 2) Next, they highlight the Russian response that includes flooding the battlefield with low-cost FPVs and gaining a quantitative advantage while developing strategies to counter Ukrainian tactics
- 3) Finally, they discuss the increased emphasis on quality over quantity, a response both sides have deployed to counter more advanced C-UAS capabilities and strategies