The A-Z of UAVs
By the Critical Platform Studies Group

critplat.org

Trigger warning: trivialization of state violence.

Artist Statement

We present a parody of The A-Z of AI, an online interactive guide developed by Google and the Oxford Internet Institute that “offers a series of simple, bite-sized explainers to help anyone understand what AI is, how it works and how it’s changing the world around us.” Even as The A-Z of AI creates a valuable resource for non-specialist understanding of complex AI concepts, we note the gap in its engagement with pressing social issues around AI.

Our parody presents the A-Z of Unmanned Autonomous Vehicles (UAVs). The piece is meant to underline how the playfulness of Google’s A-Z of AI must be interpreted in the context of the harms that many AI systems cause. Jabbing at Google’s sponsorship of The A-Z of AI, the fictitious A-Z of UAVs is imagined to be sponsored jointly by military contractors and drone manufacturers, Lockheed Martin and Amazon.com Inc.

1 URL: https://atozofai.withgoogle.com/
The A-Z of UAVs

A is for airborne, like a goose on the wing

B is for boxes, which our UAVs bring

C is for care, which we take with your stuff

D is for doorstep, where we drop it with love

E is for ethics, which you can leave to us ;)

F is for fires, drones can safely assess

G is for got 'em, when a target is hit
The A-Z of UAVs

H is for heatmap; drones see people with it

I is for intel, drones gather stealthily

J is for the joy pilots have on a spree

K is for kill lists that make the world better

L is for laws, which we follow to the letter

M is for missiles, which we carry and share

N is for non-combatants, whom we carefully spare
The A-Z of UAVs

O is for oops, mistakes do occur

P is for Prime, customers like you prefer

Q is for quick, which we'll always be

R is for rush, for the fastest delivery

S is for security, for safety and control

T is for technology, inherently neutral

U is for unmanned, so no one's in harm's way
The A-Z of UAVs

V

is for violence, we minimize in our wake

W

is for whenever, anytime, anywhere

X

is for extra special, which you are, and we care

Y

is for yellow, for Amazon’s smile, hope, and explosions

Z

is for the zeal we have for our slogan:

“We never forget who we’re working for.”
—Lockheed Martin