



FOCUS:

ROBOTS

Robots have come a long way since their conception as clunky human surrogates. Advanced machines perform a broad range of tasks, from assembly line automation to autonomous vehicular activity. Government and industry are working together to develop the necessary support technologies, such as artificial intelligence, but no one can accurately predict where this research will lead. *SIGNAL* Magazine's December 2018 issue looks at some of the ongoing efforts to explore and exploit robotic technology.

- The U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) is developing innovative robotic technologies and capabilities in conjunction with the Army's modernization plan.
- Researchers at the University of Manchester in England are working on robot atoms that would create molecular factories to assemble combat supplies in the field.
- The Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory sets out in its own pursuit of amphibious robots.
- The University of Texas at Arlington has patented a "smart skin" of nanowires that could give robots a stronger sense of touch than humans.
- Carnegie Mellon scientists are exploring undersea robotic applications for the U.S. Navy.

ADDITIONAL CONTENT:

- The next step in artificial intelligence for cyber defense is machines that make their own decisions to provide anticipatory cybersecurity on a national scale.
- With government driving industry to develop new secure identification technologies, innovative capabilities may emerge from a confluence of different approaches.
- Engineering students are developing individually tailored technologies to help wounded warriors who are outside of the Veterans Affairs system.
- Military exercises in Europe have pointed the way to new methods of command and control.

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