

# Exploration of the ethical dimension of NEO/NEC

Toward a philosophical framework of analysis

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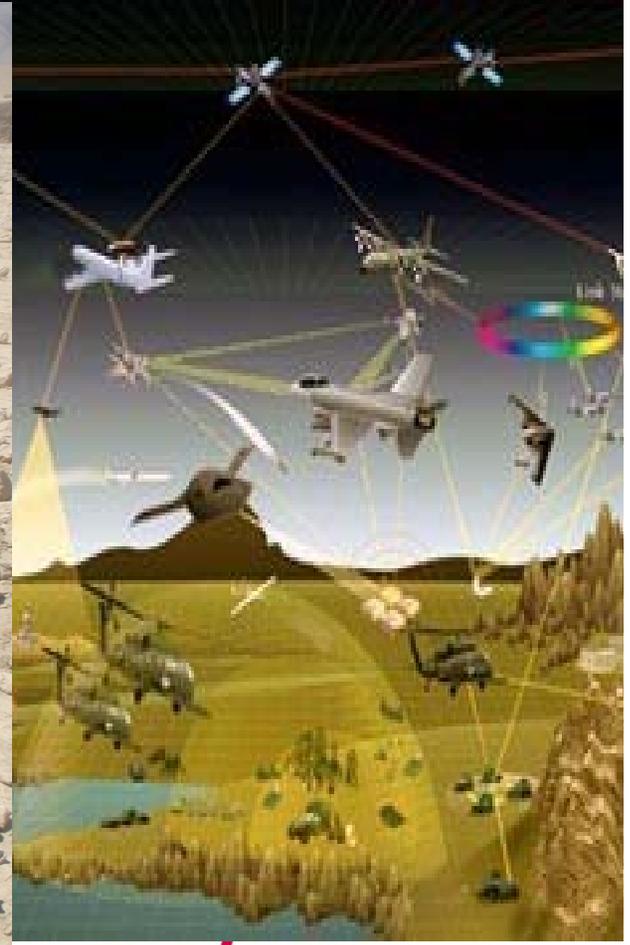
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Where innovation starts

# One node in a network of operators, decision makers - linked by technologies



# The problem

- (NEC/)NEO is operationalised in technology-enabled behaviors of humans
- NEO enables people to see more, know more, interact with many, at multiple levels, with multiple parties
- What impact does that have on human decision making and collaboration ?
- There is little attention for the ethical impact of NEO/NEC
  - Lit. on Military ethics: no attention for NEO or technology
  - Lit. on NEO: no attention for ethical aspects
  - Why is this important?



# The project

- “Moral Requirements of Military Personnel in a Networked Operational Environment”
  - A NL fundamental research program 2009-2012 of two universities, military academy, applied research institute
  - Multi-disciplinary team of Philosophers, Engineers, Social Scientists and 2 PostDocs, 1 PhD-student
- Objective
  - to identify and analyse NEO’s underlying, critical moral notions and its psychological and social requirements for adequate decision making and collaboration



# My research questions

- Technology is not neutral (philosophical insight)
- 1. In what ways does a networked operational environment affect moral decision making behaviour of military personnel?
- 2. Do NEO technologies justice to the intrinsic normativity of a military profession ('practice')?
- First task
  - To develop a theory-based analytical model for analysis of NEC and its moral dimensions

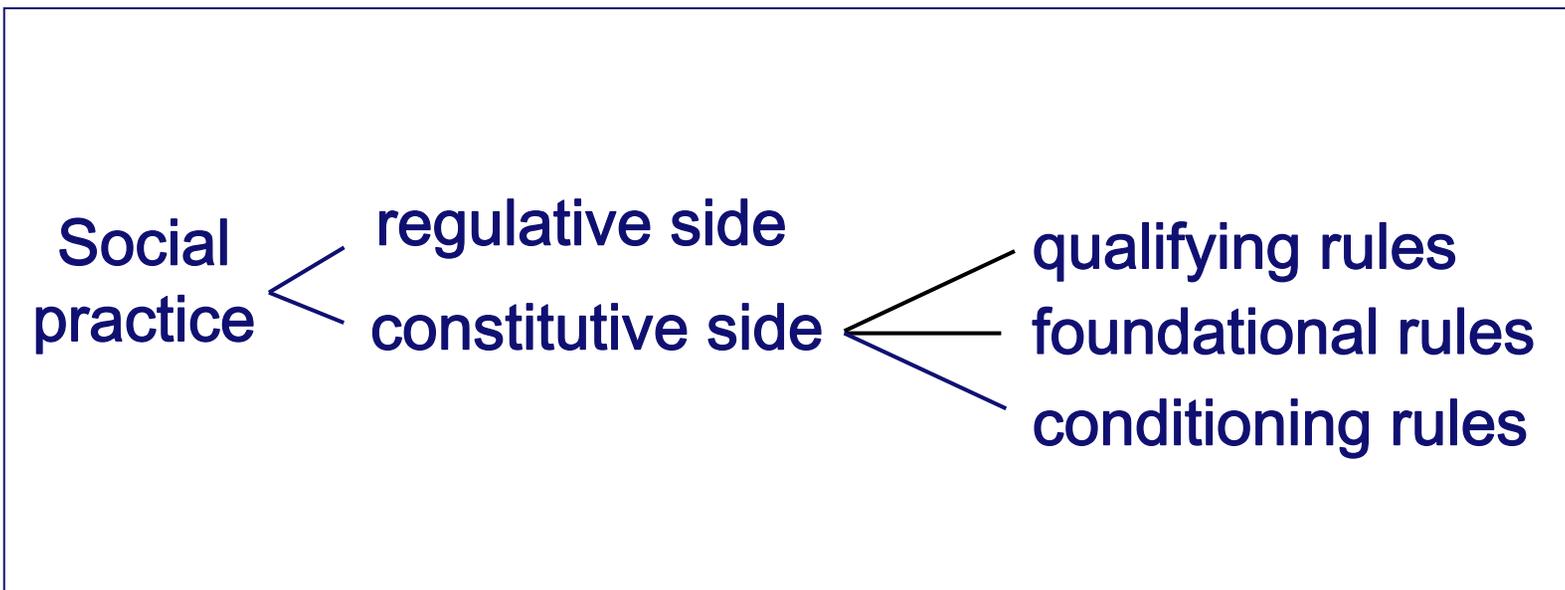


# NEO ethics dimension

- 'Traditional' view
  - human actions are neutral in themselves and ethics is added to regulate the actions
- Philosopher Dooyeweerd
  - A social practice has intrinsic normativity, which makes human actions possible
    - gives direction to actions
    - forms a coherent unity of rules, norms, principles and virtues
- NEO only becomes meaningful when placed in the social context of human actions: military practice
  - What characteristics has that practice?
  - And what is changing due to NEO?

# The normative structure of a social practice

(based on Jochemsen, Glas and Hoogland, 1997)



# First Application: Kunduz Airstrike Incident

Six networked practices interact and may conflict:

- Pilot (US)
- FAC (GER)
- PRT commander (GER)
- RC North (GER/COAL)
- ISAF HQ (COAL)
- Informant (AFGH)



# What was the result of connecting practices?

- Different interpretations of one video screen (multi-aspects theory of technology use)
- Interpretation takes place within different frames of reference: one's own practice
- Conflict between the regulative and the constitutive side of different practices

	<b>Official perspective</b>	<b>'Practice' perspective</b>
<b>NATO analysis</b>	<b>Wrong decision</b>	<b>Regulative side</b>
<b>German analysis</b>	<b>Military appropriate</b>	<b>Constitutative side</b>

# Conclusion

EO assumptions not realized in Kunduz case:

NEO creates greater common understanding of a situation?

NEO stimulates people to share information between different nodes?

NEO speeds up the decision making cycle?

Regulative and constitutive sides of the practices involved need to be accounted for and aligned in decision making process

# Affiliations:



Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research



## 3TU.Centre for Ethics and Technology



Ministerie van Defensie

