



Culture and Human-Robot Interaction in Militarized Spaces

A War Story

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Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel are some of the most highly trained people in the military, with a job description that spans defusing unexploded ordnance to protecting VIP's and state dignitaries. EOD are also one of the first military groups to work with robots every day. These robots have become an increasingly important tool in EOD work, enabling people to work at safer distances in many dangerous situations. Based on exploratory research investigating interactions between EOD personnel and the robots they use, this study richly describes the nuances of these reciprocal influences, especially those related to operator emotion associated with the robots. In particular, this book examines the activities, processes and contexts that influence or constrain everyday EOD human-robot interactions, what human factors are shaping the (robotic) technology and how people and culture are being changed by using it. The findings from this research have implications for future personnel training, and the refinement of robot design considerations for many fields that rely on critical small group communication and decision-making skills.

Contents

Foreword, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kolb; Preface. Part I Narratives: Learning by experience; Explosive ordnance disposal stories. Part II Metaphors: Our emotional engines; Meaningful connections with non-human things; Robot design as rhetoric. Part III Patterns: The ecological system of U.S. military EOD work; Action formation; Preparing to repair; Transformational shifts. Appendices; References; Index.

About the Author

Julie Carpenter worked in user-centered research and development of Web-based applications in the medical field when she decided to pursue an academic career. Over the last ten years, she has focused her expertise on a body of work exploring human emotion and attachment in human-robot interaction, authoring academic articles and book chapters.

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