

Vision Statement

What world problem are you concerned about?

Terrorist organizations exist in many places and in many forms. According to the Department of Defense, terrorism is defined as "the calculated use of unlawful violence or threat of unlawful violence to inculcate fear; intended to coerce or to intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological." [1]

Why is this problem important?

Terrorism in general poses a serious problem. Some of the most dangerous countries in the world include Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and many more along that region. This is due to the prominence of certain terrorist groups in that area. One of the most prevalent means used by these organizations to inflict terror is the use of what the military calls improvised explosive devices. [2]

What aspect of this problem seems particularly important to you?

One of the most prevalent means used by terrorist organizations to inflict terror is the use of what the military calls improvised explosive devices. The primary purpose of IEDs are to kill or maim soldiers, but it routinely results in civilian casualties.

How could a new software system help to solve this aspect of the problem?

A software system that allows individual soldiers to identify IEDs would greatly reduce the number of casualties inflicted by these devices. This system would be implemented by using satellites to capture images of terrain hyperspectrally. The software would run over the data collected by satellites and look for features that match those of an IED. The information would then be relayed to the operators on the ground.

Why do you think that this idea will make a big impact on the world?

Currently, one of the most effective weapons being used by terrorists are IEDs. If the effectiveness of this weapon was reduced or completely disabled, that would sufficiently cut down on the terrorists ability to affect terror.

What sources did you use in writing this Vision Statement?

[1]Zalman, Amy. "U.S. Department of Defense Definition of Terrorism." *Terrorism*. Web. 01 Sept. 2011. <http://terrorism.about.com/od/whatisterroris1/ss/DefineTerrorism_4.htm>.

[2]"Most Dangerous Countries." *Travel The Whole World*. Web. 01 Sept. 2011. <http://www.travelthewholeworld.com/most_dangerous_countries.html>.