

# CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



## CENJOWS

### CHINA'S ROBOT WARFARE

#### China Preparing for the Futuristic Robot Warfare

1. Future warfare is expected to feature intensive unmanned weapon system operations for which China is getting prepared. China possesses an arsenal of unmanned weapon systems for different combat scenarios and has prepared for potential robot warfare in the future. The Mule-200 is one example of China's military-civilian integration strategy. Other state-owned and private companies are developing similar robot vehicle weapons, in addition to aerial drones, unmanned ships, underwater drones and amphibious drones.



*A Mule-200 unmanned ground vehicle developed by Zhong Tian Zhi Kong Technology Holdings Company China*

2. Chinese private arms company Zhong Tian Zhi Kong Technology Holdings Company displayed the **MULE-200 UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLE (UGV)** at the Unmanned System Exhibition and Conference 2020 (UMEX2020) in Abu Dhabi in end-February.

3. The Mule-200 is a medium-sized, multipurpose crawler UGV designed to accompany infantry units and transport ammunition and supplies, equip firearms and provide fire support at close range. Developed with a **modular design concept**, the Mule-200 can switch loads for transport, reconnaissance, combat and communication relay for different missions. Unlike most UGVs that leave payloads in the open, the Mule-200 can store them inside its armor to provide protection.

4. ***The vehicle weighs 500 kilograms and carries a maximum load of 200 kilograms.*** With two caterpillar tracks, the Mule-200 can travel in all kinds of terrain. ***The robot vehicle can run at a top speed of 50 kilometers an hour with a longest range of 50 kilometers:*** superior to comparable UGVs with its newly developed gasoline-electrical hybrid engine.

5. The Mule-200 is believed to be technically mature and have excellent performance and the fact it was developed by a private, not a state-owned, company indicates China enjoys a high technical level in UGVs.

6. According to the PLA Eastern Theater Command The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is in possession of the **SMALL GROUND ROBOT**, which can traverse complicated terrains, accurately observe battlefield situations and provide ferocious firepower. ***The thigh-high robot looks like a small assault vehicle. It walks on tracks similar to a tank,*** allowing it to adapt to complicated terrains in open field combat, move quickly and climb stairs. Equipped with a machine gun, and observation and detection equipment including night vision devices, the robot can replace a human soldier in dangerous reconnaissance missions. Target practice results showed the robot has acceptable accuracy, and the use of weapons still requires human control. Robots will free human soldiers from heavy physical work and unnecessary danger.



*Capable of carrying a machine gun, the **small ground robot** can traverse complicated terrains and replace human soldiers in dangerous reconnaissance missions*

7. The PLA Rocket Force is receiving a large, **CRANE-LIKE ROBOT** that can be ***used in lifting and loading missiles onto transporter erector launchers, enabling more missiles to be launched from the same launcher*** within short intervals. A conventional crane is less steady and requires human assistance when loading missiles, but the robot solves this problem.

8. Unmanned systems will gradually free human soldiers from heavy physical work and extreme danger and let them focus on making combat decisions and carrying out technical and tactical movements. Combat robots may attract more public attention, but support robots like the one the Rocket Force is using are also important to the military's overall combat capability.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1181220.shtml>

[https://www.defenseworld.net/news/26744/Chinese\\_Army\\_Introduces\\_Armed\\_Midget\\_Robots#.XtjhF54zbVo](https://www.defenseworld.net/news/26744/Chinese_Army_Introduces_Armed_Midget_Robots#.XtjhF54zbVo)

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