



# Unmanned Maritime System Legal Workshop

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McCarty Little Hall • U.S. Naval War College • Newport, Rhode Island

## Issues for Examination

Status of various types of UxVs: [Nordquist] Are they "vessels?" Are they mines? Does the status depend on where, how, and in what manner they operate (e.g. independently propelled, tethered, or immobile? What is the consequence of the status determination (e.g. sovereign immunity, applicability of various legal regimes)?

Rules of the Road issues related to UxV's: [Roach] How do the navigational rules of the road impact UxV's, both in the design and the operations realms?

Maritime zone issues: [Allen] What legal issues are raised by the operation of UxV's in various maritime zones? Examples of issues include where they can lawfully go; in what mode they are supposed to be operated; whether or not particular doctrines such as innocent passage and constructive presence apply; varying interpretation of the law (e.g. prior notice for innocent passage; extent of freedom of navigation)

LOAC issues: [von Heinegg] To what extent could UUVs be armed; and what level of operational control in the use of their armaments is necessary to comply with LOAC? How far down the "kill chain" can we allow autonomous decision-making to occur? Are there LOAC issues unique to UxVs that do not exist with UAVs?