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China's Brightest Children Are Being Recruited To Develop AI 'Killer Bots'

Posted by BeauHD on Wednesday November 07, 2018 @09:05PM from the patriotic-youngsters dept.

According to The South China Morning Post, "some of China's smartest students have been recruited straight from high school to begin training as the world's youngest AI weapons scientists." A total of 27 boys and four girls all under the age of 18 were chosen for the four-year "experimental program for intelligent weapons systems" at the Beijing Institute of Technology (BIT) from more than 5,000 candidates. From the report: "The BIT is one of the country's top weapons research institutes, and the launch of the new program is evidence of the weight it places on the development of AI technology for military use. "These kids are all exceptionally bright, but being bright is not enough," said a BIT professor who was involved in the screening process but asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the subject. "We are looking for other qualities such as creative thinking, willingness to fight, a persistence when facing challenges," he said. "A passion for developing new weapons is a must ... and they must also be patriots."

Each student will be mentored by two senior weapons scientists, one from an academic background and the other from the defense industry, according to the program's brochure. After completing a short program of course work in the first semester, the students will be asked to choose a speciality field, such as mechanical engineering, electronics or overall weapon design. They will then be assigned to a relevant defense laboratory where they will be able to develop their skills through hands-on experience.

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Re: Not to forget a malleable personality (Score:1)

by Anonymous Coward

So Moon j [reply] US military it's patriotic and if the Chinese join the army it's malleable personality?

And if you think joining the military is an ok thing to do then perhaps you would rather move to a country with no military... oh yes, hosting US military or dumping ground for nuclear waste.

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Re: Shanghai Bill (Score:5, Funny)

by ShanghaiBill (/39463) on Wednesday November 07, 2018 @09:27PM (#57609676)

China obviously wants war. Why else would they put their country right next to so many American military bases?

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Re: (Score:1)

by Anonymous Coward

China obviously wants war. Why else would they put their country right next to so many American military bases?

All told, there are over 32 American Military Bases less than 400 miles from China !

Yep, you're right, as always, Shanghai Bill.

CHINA DESPERATELY WANTS WAR !!!

2 hidden comments

Re: (Score:2)

by mikael (484)

The way the Roman Empire expanded, they established peace treaties with smaller countries in exchange for wealth and a supply of recruits for the legions. In return the country gets defended as part of the empire.

Re: Many AI Killer Bots or 1 Atom Boi (Score:2)

by c6gunner (950153)

That's the geopolitical equivalent of yelling "hey, look over there!". Cute little trick to misdirect the simpleminded, but absolutely devoid of any substance.

Re: (Score:1)

by aybiss (876862)

Hypocrisy is always lost on RWNJs.

Maybe the Chinese kids can upgrade NPCs (Score:2)

by Crashmarik (635988)

with a sense of humor ?

Re: (Score:1)

by DNS-and-BIND (461968)

Look, we will never have a global governance as long as Russia and China are not under control. Those bases are to contain and crush them. We were all set to take out Russia until they rigged our election for Trump. Hillary was chomping at the bit for war. China is after Russia. Then we can drop borders, allow free movement of people, have one global currency, and at last have a government composed of intelligent people who will make the hard decisions that benefit everyone, not just a few bankers in London

2 hidden comments

Re: (Score:2)

by Joe_Dragon (2206452)

also the china owned land / Companys in usa will be lost to china as soon as the war starts.

1 hidden comment

Re: (Score:2)

by Kiuas (1084567)

Yeah, it's unbelievable that China still thinks it can go on with the war. It's been what, 17 years in Afghanistan for example and the conflict keeps going despite massive casualties, a bill in the of over 2 trillion that could have been used more productively and no end in sight. [businessinsider.com] It's almost like this is a problem that cannot be solved with military force, but stubborn China and their massive fleet of aircraft carries and overseas bases doesn't seem to care. Gotta kill the terrorists until there are no lon

Is this real?... (Score:2)

by PseudoThink (576121)

...or the synopsis a new book in Orson Scott Card's "Ender's Shadow" [wikipedia.org] series?

1 hidden comment

Re: Is this real?... (Score:2)

by TimMD909 (260285)

No, they're to the left... Wait now they're up... Wait, look up... Nevermind they're down again. Probably shouldn't drink so much before training in... GODDAMMIT, they're to the left again... I give up. Where's my beer? Oh, it's right below me... Wait...

Re: Is this real?... (Score:1)

by marleyboy (174610)

And in the long run, the children themselves became the national resources to exploit. Graf made it his mission to keep those kids off of Earth and not subject to the nation's whims, but in control of a 'cooperative', the International Fleet. Does China's actions set the stage for a Battle School in the Lagrange point?

sounds a little like the hitler youth is war comin (Score:2)

by Joe_Dragon (2206452)

sounds a little like the hitler youth is war coming?

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Re: (Score:3, Informative)

by Nutria (679911)

Selective abortion.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [blahplusplus \(757119 \)](#)

youth is war coming?

Yup, all states are preparing for the political awakening of the masses of the globe, they are *expecting* conflict.

Zbigniew Brezinski

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?...> [youtube.com]

• **Re: (Score:3)**

by [jma05 \(897351 \)](#)

You may be right about the exponential tech-up.

But why do you think China will be the same after that? Today's China is nothing like Mao's China or the Imperial China from before that. It continues to change. Tomorrow's well-educated Chinese will ask for even more changes in their society.

US today is not like the US from 100 years ago. And tomorrow's China will not be today's China.

I am not worried about the Chinese. They are a practical people and mean well. I am only impressed about all the fresh-off-the-

• **Ender's Game meets the Teriator (Score:3)**

by [jfdavis668 \(1414919 \)](#) on Wednesday November 07, 2018 @09:47PM ([#57609756](#))

Got to nuke it from orbit, it's the only way to be sure.

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• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [gtvr \(1702650 \)](#)

That was Alien, not Terminator, I think.

• **Gaps (Score:1)**

by Anonymous Coward

Mr President, we must not allow a killer bot gap!

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [gtvr \(1702650 \)](#)

Maybe we should just come up with a doomsday machine. As long as we don't keep it secret.

• **If I was a member of the ruling class (Score:5, Insightful)**

by [rsilvergun \(571051 \)](#) on Wednesday November 07, 2018 @10:02PM ([#57609836](#))

automated kill bots would be my #1 priority. Throughout history the one thing that has consistently challenged my rule has been the military I use to keep power. Specifically charismatic leaders I needed to whip the troops into the kind of frenzy they need to die for me.

Kill bots let me do away that problem. Now all I need is a couple of geeky engineers to run my military and oppress everybody else. Mix in automated factories for making my stuff and I don't even need consumers. I can just own everything and use the ownership to decide who lives and who dies, giving me ultimate power.

And as a member of the ruling class, what else is there for me?

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• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [SqueakyMouse \(1003426 \)](#)

That doesn't sound like ultimate power to me. That sounds like a scenario in which the geeky engineers can overthrow you. They do run the military after all.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [freax \(80371 \)](#)

Give the geeks a lot of freshly printed money.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [gtvr \(1702650 \)](#)

Then the Doctor heads and gives your cybermen emotion, and their heads all explode

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [AmiMoJo \(196126 \)](#)

Killbots might be worse than a human army. Turning humans against the ruling class requires many different tactics and is a prolonged process. Turning killbots against them is a single exploit, a buffer overflow leading to code injection somewhere.

• **Misdirected? (Score:1)**

by [Tablizer \(95088 \)](#)

I don't see why automated soldiers should be a high priority for the 2nd most populated country in the world. They have plenty of organic brains to hunt and aim.

Unless maybe they feel the only way to attack a mass swarm of AI drones is with another mass swarm of AI drones.

[1 hidden comment](#)

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [Dutch Gun \(899105 \)](#)

The fact that this was publicly announced just means it's a PR stunt by the Beijing Institute of Technology. If you think about it, all it says is "we've recruited our first class for a new four-year program that will likely be relevant in the future weapons development industry."

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [gtvr \(1702650 \)](#)

10 million or 100 million soldiers won't do anything against our aircraft carriers. If they have weapons that can take those out, take our F22s even w/o radar lock, or otherwise out-smart our smart weapons then their soldiers can do whatever they want.

• **Another advantage is... (Score:1)**

by Anonymous Coward

They are young enough to be morally programmable, and not wise enough to think about possible negative global consequences of their efforts...

• **I hope they feel more secure... ??? (Score:2)**

by [wolfheart111 \(2496796 \)](#)

I love China,I wish we could cooperate better. :(

[1 hidden comment](#)

• **Small step (Score:5, Insightful)**

by [religionofpeas \(4511805 \)](#) on Thursday November 08, 2018 @12:33AM ([#57610356](#))

Once you have AI killer bots to defend the homeland, it's only a small step to use them to keep your own population in check.

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• **Right, evil China as always (Score:1)**

by Anonymous Coward

wasn't it China who has been carrying out military excursions and invasions into other foreign countries during much of the 20th century, and the last 15 years? Or was that some other country?

Difference between China and U.S. is that China has a defense budget, U.S. has an invasion budget. Don't try to make China out as aggressive. History has shown that they are the most peaceful superpower to ever exist, while the U.S. is corrupt and thrives on making war.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [afxgrin \(208686 \)](#)

Vietnam and Taiwan would like to have a word with you.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [houghj \(78078 \)](#)

I would go for Tibet as an example as neither Vietnam, not Taiwan are currently invaded.

They might have been, but that is standard in world history. Any country that had anything to offer has been invaded in the past.

• **Think of the Children (Score:2)**

by [ememisya \(1548255 \)](#)

Yea? Who better than kids to create instruments of murder and mayhem, that's the ticket.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [SCVonSteroids \(2816091 \)](#)

Brains are still malleable.

It's a pretty straight forward concept, actually.

• **Autonomous killer bots are not OK (Score:2)**

by [Misogon \(1135 \)](#)

I think that the international community must stand up against things such as this.

If China will not close down its program by itself, a coalition will need to be formed to bomb the Chinese sites where this is taking place, to prevent it from happening.

• **Re: (Score:2)**

by [SCVonSteroids \(2816091 \)](#)

They don't, because there's nothing to fear.

You want to be scared of the projects like this that you DON'T know of. Hint; they're probably not situated in China.

• **The fastest way to create AI weapons is (Score:2)**

by [sabbede \(2678435 \)](#)

