

## **Team Coordination and UAV Operation**

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When it comes to UAVs the term “unmanned” seems to be taken literally and the scores of humans controlling, monitoring, collaborating, maintaining, and coordinating from the ground are overlooked. The human component of UAV operations is paramount and human factors issues abound. Our research program focuses on the team coordination required for UAV operations. We have approached this problem through cognitive task analyses of field operations, development of a synthetic test bed which replicates UAV coordination in the lab, and empirical studies conducted in this synthetic task environment. In addition we have developed metrics to assess team performance, process, and cognition and are developing models of team coordination. We have found that team performance in this setting hinges on the acquisition of coordination skill on the part of the team, that individual taskwork knowledge is a prerequisite to development of this skill, and that teams can adapt to geographic dispersion.