Manipulating Trust Behaviors in a Combat Identification Task

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Objective: To examine how positive and negative images can be used to prime operator trust behaviors towards automation. **Background**: Prior research shows that trust in automation can be affected by various manipulations of the automation, but little has been done in priming participants prior to interactions with automation. **Methods**: Participants were first shown positive or negative images of real-world automation, and then were asked to complete a combat identification task. **Results**: The data revealed that priming positive images resulted in lower trust in the automation, while priming negative images resulted in higher trust. **Conclusions**: Priming operators prior to interactions with automation can have surprising contrast effects depending on the primes and the conditions.