

Meaningful Human Control as Architecturally-Defined

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Where the Doctrine Stands

UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Group of Governmental Experts, ICRC working papers, and emerging national defense doctrine (UK, Netherlands, Australia, France) converge on MHC as the central concept for LAWS governance.

MHC requires that humans retain meaningful control over critical engagement decisions. 'Meaningful' is the operationally-pivotal qualifier; current architecture supports the requirement implementationally.

What 'Meaningful' Structurally Requires

MHC operationally requires: that operator intent is architecturally-recorded (not reconstructed from logs), that engagement actuations admit structurally against the recorded intent, that intent transitions (operator takeover, intent escalation) enter lineage, that post-action audit can verify intent-to-actuation correspondence.

Each of these requirements maps to an architectural primitive. Without architectural support, MHC operates as policy intention rather than operational reality.

How Operator-Intent Maps

Credentialed intent declaration provides architectural intent recording. Composite admissibility against active intent provides structural admission. Intent-transition recording provides lineage. Audit traversal across intent-actuation provides verification.

MHC becomes operationally-real rather than policy-aspirational.

Where National Doctrine Is Heading

UK MoD's emerging LAWS doctrine, Australian Department of Defence's autonomous-systems policy, and U.S. DoD Directive 3000.09 (updated 2023) all increasingly require structurally-supported MHC.

The patent positions the architectural substrate at exactly where doctrinal enforcement increasingly operates.