

Introducing Iron Man: Exoskeletons in Warfare

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The article looks at the development of exoskeletons for use in warfare. It attempts to address two major research gaps in the literature – (i) While there are essays on where individual countries are in terms of military exoskeleton research, there is currently no primer or overview where all the available data from various countries are collated into one coherent analysis. It will thus offer the first truly global look at the latest developments in this field as of 2021, comparing the progress made by major military powers such as the USA, Russia, China, NATO, India, etc. and (ii) There is very little discussion on the implications this technology might hold for the battlefields of the future. Since it would be radically new and an untested entity if used in modern warfare, it is vital that security scholars ponder the consequences of deploying such innovations in contemporary theatres of operation. The article attempts to rectify that gap as well, with a brief look at the potential changes in warfare exoskeletons could bring about.

Keywords: *military technology, exoskeleton, future of warfare, global security*