

## **AUTONOMY, INNOVATION, AND LEADERSHIP:**

### **THE FUTURE OF MARITIME INTERACTIONS IN THE AGE OF AI**

In the era of digitalization, AI is transforming modern warfare, shifting the focus from traditional kinetic confrontations to indirect ones, often in the informational and cognitive dimensions. This change requires a new view of military operations, where AI and digital technology are integrated in every aspect of operations, from planning to logistics. Opening with a focus on the weapon systems, our analysis will be on the use of AI in tactical-strategic decision-making. Additionally, it will be crucial to analyze how the digital era is modifying the international maritime scenario. In fact it introduces innovations capable of revolutionizing both naval operations and the management of oceanic resources through the use of remotely controlled systems.

The Italian Navy's "Future Combat Naval System 2035," pursuing maximum synergy among the Armed Forces, Industry, and Academia, illustrates how AI is redefining command and control systems. It shapes the view of the national aeronaval tool of the future, as well as the guidelines for developing and sustaining high-tech innovation capabilities.

A crucial element is the training of personnel, which is fundamental in this context and must be aimed at creating synergy between humans and machines while preserving human critical and creative thinking in complex and ambiguous situations. Leadership and innovation are thus essential to addressing the challenges and optimizing the use of new technologies.

In conclusion, in a context where automation and system autonomy are increasing, human intelligence remains indispensable, particularly in managing complex situations and addressing ethical and moral issues that require critical and creative reflection.



**Marco FRANCAVILLA**  
C2C  
Italian Naval Academy  
Midshipman **HURAKAN** – 3<sup>^</sup> Class  
Civ: [+39 333 847 2517](tel:+393338472517)  
E.mail: [marco.francavilla@marina.difesa.it](mailto:marco.francavilla@marina.difesa.it)



**James F. ARMSTRONG**  
C2C  
Italian Naval Academy  
Midshipman **HURAKAN** – 3<sup>^</sup> Class  
Civ: [+39 3921483900](tel:+393921483900)  
E.mail: [jamesf.armstrong@marina.difesa.it](mailto:jamesf.armstrong@marina.difesa.it)