



In addition, the EOs possess several assets that would be very useful in the replacement of drones, such as night vision, exceptional hearing and quiet flight, which makes them particularly useful for surveilling in the dark.

And last but not least: aesthetically EOs are much prettier and graceful than drones, and while drones come in many different models, there are over 20 species of EOs, that can cater for any mission, not to mention that contrary to drones, every single individual bird is unique on its own. Plus, the females are bigger and bolder, which would make for a nice publicity turn if they ever got discovered.

The one main issue remaining is how to teach the EOs to communicate their findings, but with only a third of the current budget invested in the development of drone technology, it would be possible to set up a Morse Literacy Program for Service EOs. The idea is to teach EOs Morse Code, or really any code (they could be multilingual) that they can tap with their beaks upon their arrival from their mission (for a preliminary version of the MLPSEO, please refer to Appendix A). EOs, like most birds, also learn from each other, so the learning curve of an entire division would be very pronounced. A great advantage of this program is that their messages would never be intercepted, making them a much safer alternative to other methods of recovering surveillance information.

For all the reasons above, I am making a special recommendation to the Intelligence Service, to begin the immediate drafting of Eagle Owls as the first step towards the complete replacement of UAVs or drones. At a later stage, it would be possible to replace UCAVs (combatant UAVs) as well, but it is not recommended here because Owls are that other thing with feathers, and just like ED's, they should never stop – at all –.