Spy Robots of the Future

By Lance Winslow - 2002

The CIA robotic spies will look like you and I, talk, walk, eat, act and even make mistakes like us. But these will not be living, breathing organic humans. The Labs around the country are working on them now, by 2025 they will be everywhere. It is time to a have a serious discussion on artificial intelligence and the future of clandestine spies using artificial intelligence robotics.

Isaac Asimov had artificial organic robots in his books. We all saw the movie AI. Will we be fooled in the future by robots posing as people? Will we care? This might be a great opportunity for spying? Create a robot which looks and acts like a person and is controlled thru tele-robotics or constantly monitored thru sensors watching the target by TV Screen and putting in controls and feeding in topics of conversation? Realizing that this technology will be available in our lifetimes, should we be thinking ahead of how best to use this technology for CIA Clandestine efforts.

Today we have technologies such as putting a cell phone in someone's false teeth. They can then meet with a source and be fed instructions as to what to say and ask. Today we have built Haptic enabled 'robotic faces' to mimic the person it interfaces with, based on a known human trait of personality called mirroring. Mirroring is often used in the spy industry, police investigations, good guy bad guy routines, dating, sales, negotiation and politics. Whether we realize it or not, we all mirror people we are talking with, it is extremely hard not to do this simply by habit.

Robotics researchers and psychologists designing robotic companions and humanoid type robots, have taken this into consideration. Robots, which learn thru these interactions will learn how to mimic human interaction and become quite good at cultural norms when on duty as spies. However currently we fall way short even trying to train new CIA recruits to learn cultural norms to those outpost regions in which they have never traveled. It is hard enough for them to learn the variations in language dialogue, slang and accents.

Cultural norms, language and behavior is not the only thing that is difficult to teach and in the future we will need to teach the robots to make human type mistakes, laugh and understand when a joke is told, before we can release them autonomously. This is why tele robotics will come first when using robotic spies.

In the future we will have a tough time teaching robots to be random or rather appear random as humans often seem to be. The only way to attempt to achieve the randomness of human interaction will be to have simultaneous algorithms running all at once and a couple more algorithms controlling which algorithm will reside in the decision to vector of a conversation or interaction with a human being otherwise the human will become suspicious as they often are anyway.

We might be better off to wait to send in robotic spies until we have partial human, partial robot units or transhumans with additional capacities and assisted brain power. Eventually we may find as we develop our species to include more advanced robotic systems, which become "part of us" that we may lose our abilities to be random in pure humanly terms. Organic humans are very random but not completely, it will be most difficult to fool a human who is interacting with a robot until well off into the future.

Even if we study the target subject completely, recording previous conversations, writings, emails and have a complete LifeByte virtual file on the target subject, we may find it difficult to conceal the non-organic robotic spy. This is because humans will recognize patterns of mirroring and mimicking which are unnatural to human interaction and be able to tell that the robotic spy is not acting like humans act.

There will someday be a crossing point I suppose where there are enough human beings with non-natural parts that it might be difficult to tell which are totally human, which are partly human and which are cyborgs or a combination of species created thru biological DNA, RNA manipulations. As more non-100% humans interact and society changes the humans will begin to mimic the average mean behavior of their societies to keep from being left out of the social structure. Robots will be programmed to also mimic the average gestures, posture and behavioral slant.

Humans are innately social and have a sense of need to belong. Maslow's hierarchy of needs predicts respect from your fellow man at near the top of those human needs. Will Robotic Researchers in the future be able to adapt these units to interact without detection first or will the merging of man and machine change human interaction in society and civilization first. The overwhelming complexity of mimicking human behavior and interaction is being studied by researchers of Artificial Intelligence, they are taking on the challenge, but being able to fool a human might be tougher than we think. Will all this studies one day just all come together or will it be a long drawn out process over a number of years or possibly decades. Will the time frame be so far off in the future that we may not ever notice the change at all and then one day we cannot tell?

There are other possibilities and those are that humans may evolve into a completely different species by modifying the on-off switches of our own DNA to the most desirable attributes skipping over the alluring challenge to create non-organic robots for transhumanism modifications and manipulations. Many species have attributes we do not possess, but that does not mean with a little genetic manipulation that we cannot also know these things. Think about it, you could swim like a fish, communicate like a dolphin or have the strength and agility of a tiger, yet still possess the brain of the world's smartest human? Once a set pattern of perfection is established will we see widespread cloning to make more perfectly desirable humans. Would it be wise to clone a set of clandestine spies?

Organically superior human spies or is it better to create non-organic robots to do our spying? The future of the spying industry will be changing, some downsizing will occur and robotic spies with upgrades may never be retired. Will there be a time when robotic spies are spying on neighboring nations robots not knowing that they are spies too? Even if we can fool a human, will robots be able to fool other robots?

Think it's SCI FI? Think again as artificial intelligence robotic labs are breaking barrier after barrier on their way to make indistinguishable units. The DOD, CIA have already been looking at this future and funding it. Do you think you can tell the difference? Some say they may already be here amoungst us? But all of us know they will be here soon.