

**For Immediate Release:** October 5, 2020

**Media Contact:** Jackie Beckwith, [jbeckwith@auvsi.org](mailto:jbeckwith@auvsi.org)

## **Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence Highlighted in Future of Defense Congressional Report**

The following is a statement from AUVSI president and CEO, Brian Wynne, in response to the House Armed Services Future of Defense Task Force report:

"The Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) congratulates the members of the bipartisan Future of Defense Task Force on releasing the results of their months-long review of U.S. defense capabilities and resources. The [Future of Defense Task Force Report 2020](#) will serve as a valuable blueprint in reimagining our country's military force in the face of new and emerging threats, and AUVSI is encouraged to see the Task Force place such a strong emphasis on the need to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous systems into our future military strategy.

The focus on autonomous technologies figures prominently in the report, as integration of these new tools are critical to continued American military dominance. The report also calls for industry and government to collaborate at a heightened level, synthesizing goals and working in tandem towards achieving the technological advancements promised by AI and autonomous systems. AUVSI views this as one of its primary objectives as the trade association for the unmanned systems and robotics industry, and we look forward to our continued teamwork with the government.

The report's focus on funding advancements in technology is noteworthy, calling for increased funding to the Pentagon in science and technology research programs, enhanced DARPA funding levels, and a requirement that every major defense acquisition program evaluate at least one AI or autonomous alternative prior to funding.

AUVSI advocates in all three domains – ground, air, and maritime – and across the commercial and defense sectors. We – and our member companies – remain committed to working with the Department of Defense and Congress to innovate new technologies and systems and getting the systems to our warfighters."

###

### **About AUVSI**

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI) — the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of unmanned systems and robotics — represents corporations and professionals from more than 60 countries involved in industry, government and academia. AUVSI members work in the defense, civil and commercial markets. For more information, visit [AUVSI.org](http://AUVSI.org)