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News Release

Drones in modern warfare under discussion at University lecture

Drones – and how they have come to occupy such a large presence across recent conflicts across the world – will come under the spotlight at a lecture at the University of Wolverhampton this week.

The final Trenchard Lecture – the third in this year's series - will take place on Thursday 19 November at 6pm, MC001, at the University's City Campus. It will address the use of drones (remotely piloted aerial vehicles), with reference to the Afghanistan War and the war against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

The lecture, entitled '**Drone Wars – The Politics and Ethics of Remote Operations**' will be presented by Dr Peter Lee, Reader in Politics and Ethics at the University of Portsmouth's Business School, based at the RAF College in Cranwell.

Dr Peter Lee said: "The advent of lethal strike-capable drones in the twenty-first century has added new dimensions to the ways that states engage politically and militarily with security challenges.

"It is vital that we understand the impact of drones in recent years if they are to be used in ways that are morally, legally and politically acceptable in the future."

The Trenchard Lectures in Air Power Studies are a programme organised by the Royal Air Force Museum, in partnership with the University of Wolverhampton and the Royal Aeronautical Society.

Dr Ross Mahoney, Aviation Historian at the RAF Museum and convenor of the Trenchard Lectures, said: "The Trenchard Lectures have marked an important step in the development of the RAF Museum's academic aspirations. The Museum is pleased to be holding the series in conjunction with the University of Wolverhampton, which has a world renowned reputation in the field of History and War studies

"The lectures explore historical and contemporary issues related to the employment of air power. The forthcoming lecture by Dr Peter Lee, a noted expert on the use of remotely piloted aerial vehicles, will explore some of the political and ethical issues surrounding the use of these controversial platforms. This is a highly relevant topic as we see the increasing of RPAS over the battlefield. As such, Dr Lee's lecture will help bridge the gap between the academic and public discourse by sharing and distributing his research to a wider audience."

Dr Peter Preston-Hough, from the University's Department of History, Politics and War Studies, said: "We're delighted to have hosted this prestigious series of lectures, which have provided an interesting insight into this fascinating area of history. The University has a strong relationship with the RAF Museum and have worked closely with them on the lectures."

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For further information please contact Claire Tallentire in the Media Relations office on 01902 32 2736

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About the University of Wolverhampton

- Based at campuses in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Telford and education centres in Stafford, Burton and Birmingham City Centre, the University has 23,000 students and 2,400 staff. In addition, the University of Wolverhampton Science Park is home to tenant businesses and supports the development of innovative companies
- The University welcomes students from around the world and has regional offices in China, Malaysia, India, Oman, Nigeria and Cyprus. It has a branch campus in Mauritius and courses are also delivered with global partners in China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, France and Cyprus
- It is investing £50 million over the next two years to redevelop its campuses in Wolverhampton city centre. This includes a new £22 million Science facility and a new £18 million University of Wolverhampton Business School building.
- The institution's excellent teaching and learning provision, which spans sciences, creative and performing arts, education, business and management, health and wellbeing, engineering and technology, law and social sciences, ensures 95% of graduates find employment
- Of the 13 subject areas entered in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, all had elements graded at the highest level as being world class. The University also entered more staff and more subject areas for assessment than previously.
- In 2015 the University of Wolverhampton was awarded the highest possible accolade in the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) higher education review. The report highlighted areas of good practice such as initiatives to raise aspirations and achievement for students and the University's commitment to enhancing their employment prospects.