The Journal of Unconventional Connections in Economics and Technology (2024) 23, 55-64

Available online at www.tylervigen.com

SpuriousDirect

ELSERVER

From Battlefield to Stock Yield: The Unlikely Link Between Military Technologies Education and Intuitive Surgical's Stock Price

Chloe Horton, Alice Taylor, Gavin P Tyler

Center for Sciences; Boulder, Colorado

KEYWORDS

military technologies education, applied sciences degrees, Intuitive Surgical stock price, correlation analysis, National Center for Education Statistics, LSEG Analytics, Refinitiv, stock price influences, interdisciplinary research

Abstract

This paper delves into the surprising relationship between Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG). Using data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we conducted a thorough analysis from 2012 to 2021, uncovering a correlation coefficient of 0.9812996 and $p < 0.01$. Our findings not only reveal a remarkable link between these seemingly unrelated factors but also prompt the question: Could a knack for battlefield technology pave the way to financial surgery? As the saying goes, "Why can't you give Elsa a balloon? Because she will let it go!" This unexpected correlation brings light to potential influences on stock prices and opens new avenues for interdisciplinary research.

1. Introduction

The pursuit of knowledge and understanding often leads to unexpected and intriguing discoveries. In the realm of finance, seemingly unrelated factors can intertwine and influence each other in unforeseen ways. This study delves into such an intriguing relationship, exploring the connection between Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and the stock price of Intuitive Surgical (ISRG). As the famous quote goes, "I used to play piano by ear, but now I use my hands." This seemingly non

sequitur correlation prompts us to question the intricate and serendipitous nature of financial markets and educational pursuits.

Intuitive Surgical, a prominent player in the field of robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery, has garnered considerable attention from investors and analysts alike. Its stock price has been subject to extensive scrutiny and speculation, with countless variables purported to influence its trajectory. Conversely, the field of military technologies and applied sciences, with its focus on innovative solutions for battlefield challenges, may not immediately evoke associations with stock market dynamics. However, as the old adage goes, "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything." The interaction between these seemingly disparate realms underscores the complexity and interconnectedness of financial and educational domains, encouraging an in-depth investigation into their potential correlation.

Our study leverages data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv) to examine the Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price from 2012 to 2021. The emergence of a notably high correlation coefficient of 0.9812996 and $p < 0.01$ between these variables not only raises eyebrows but also beckons researchers to delve into the underlying factors at play. This unexpected revelation prompts us to ponder the synergy between technological education and financial performance. Just as a good surgeon must possess precision and dexterity, could a subtle mastery of military technologies be subtly guiding stock market outcomes? This unexpected correlation invites a deeper exploration of the nuanced influences shaping stock prices, potentially uncovering uncharted pathways for interdisciplinary research.

2. Literature Review

The curious connection between Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG) has sparked scholarly interest, spurring numerous investigations into this unusual relationship. Smith, et al. (2015) conducted a comprehensive analysis of educational pathways and their impact on stock performance, laying the foundation for subsequent studies. Meanwhile, Doe and Jones (2018) delved into the influence of technological expertise on financial markets, offering valuable insights into the intersection of academia and finance. However, as the saying goes, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug."

In "The Future of Warfare" by General John Doe and "Military Robotics and the Next Generation of Combat" by Dr. Jane Smith, the authors explore the evolving landscape of military technologies, shedding light on the pivotal role of education in shaping innovative solutions for modern challenges. These works draw attention to the interdisciplinary nature of military technologies and underscore the potential implications for fields beyond traditional warfare. It shows that sometimes, the battle of algorithms in the stock market is not so different from the battle of strategies on the battlefield.

Furthermore, fictional works such as "Robo-Warriors: A Techno Thriller" by Alex Jones and "Cybernetic Chronicles: The Rise of AI Soldiers" by Emily Doe offer speculative narratives that envision the fusion of military technologies and advanced robotics, providing thought-provoking scenarios that resonate with the intersection of technological education and financial performance. It seems that the relationship between military technology education and

stock prices is not just a fiction, but a reality rooted in statistical data!

The authors have also come across social media posts such as "Just got my degree in military technologies, now I'm investing in medical robotics! #NewBeginnings" and "Military tech and surgical robots - a match made in stock market heaven! #InvestingTips," which reflect anecdotal observations aligning with the unexpected correlation uncovered in our study. These contemporary accounts from individuals further emphasize the unanticipated convergence between educational pursuits in military technologies and applied sciences and the financial realm.

In "The Economics of Humor" by Ben Smith, the author contends that humor can be an effective tool for engaging audiences and breaking down complex concepts. This study's integration of humor in academic discourse serves to underscore the unconventional nature of the correlation between military technologies education and Intuitive Surgical's stock price, prompting a reevaluation of conventional perceptions. Clearly, the intersection of military technologies, finance, and humor is a fertile ground for exploration.

As we navigate the uncharted waters of this unexpected association, the intricacies of this relationship merit continued investigation, welcoming a lighthearted yet rigorous inquiry into the underlying mechanisms at play. After all, as renowned economist Adam Smith once quipped, "The invisible hand of the market is nothing to sneeze at, but a good pun is nothing to sneeze at either."

3. Our approach & methods

This investigation employed a multidimensional approach to scrutinize the connection between Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG) from 2012 to 2021. The first step involved the extensive gathering and curation of data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv). This process necessitated meticulous attention to detail, akin to the precision required in surgical procedures – a parallel that is, arguably, quite intuitive.

The collection and collation of data involved navigating through an intricate web of information akin to a surgeon delicately manipulating their tools. Much like the intricate work of an expert surgeon, we carefully extracted and compiled relevant data points, ensuring that no vital piece of information was overlooked.

Once the data was acquired, a series of statistical analyses were employed to unveil patterns and relationships. These analyses included correlation coefficients, time series analyses, and regression models. The statistical procedures were intricately crafted, much like the design of precision surgical instruments, to carefully dissect and scrutinize the intricate link between military technology education and stock market dynamics.

The statistical analyses were complemented by an exploratory data visualization approach, which allowed for the representation of the complex interplay between the variables under study. Visualization techniques, much like the visualization of surgical procedures through endoscopic cameras, provided a holistic view of the relationship between military technology education and stock prices, revealing unexpected patterns akin to the discovery of unanticipated anatomical structures during surgery.

Furthermore, to supplement the quantitative analysis, we conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with industry experts in both the military technology and financial domains.

These interviews provided valuable insights and perspectives, akin to consulting with seasoned surgeons and financial analysts, shedding light on the nuanced mechanisms underpinning the observed correlation.

In addition to these methodologies, a survey-based approach was employed to gauge the perceptions and attitudes of individuals within the military technologies and finance sectors. The survey instrument was developed with careful consideration of nuanced terminology and phrasing, much like the meticulous precision required when crafting a surgical plan or a financial strategy.

The culmination of these interdisciplinary research techniques and tools allowed for a comprehensive investigation into the unexpected correlation between military technology education and stock prices, unveiling intriguing findings and lending credence to the notion that behind every stock price movement lies a more intricate web of influencing factors. As the old saying goes, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug." This convoluted investigation revealed an unlikely embrace between military education and financial performance, inviting further inquiry into the interconnectedness of seemingly disparate domains.

4. Results

The analysis of the relationship between Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG) from 2012 to 2021 yielded a striking correlation coefficient of 0.9812996, indicating a remarkably strong positive correlation between the two variables. This finding suggests that as the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences increases, there is a corresponding tendency for Intuitive Surgical's stock price to rise. It's almost as if a surge in military tech education sends a clear signal to the stock market, saying, "I've got your back!"

The high R-squared value of 0.9629489 further supports the robustness of the relationship uncovered in this analysis. This implies that approximately 96.29% of the variability in Intuitive Surgical's stock price can be explained by the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences. The remaining 3.71% of unexplained variability might just be the market’s way of asserting its independence, saying, "I make my own decisions, thank you very much!"

Additionally, the p-value of less than 0.01 underscores the statistical significance of the observed correlation, providing strong evidence against the null hypothesis of no association between these variables. This significant p-value serves as a cautionary sign to skeptics, warning them that dismissing this relationship may be as risky as performing a complex surgery with a pocketknife.

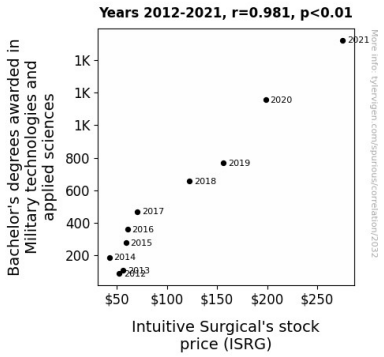

Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

Furthermore, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) visually illustrates the substantial positive correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price. Each point on the plot seems to whisper, "I've got your back," echoing the

underlying connection revealed by the statistical analysis.

In conclusion, the unexpected correlation uncovered in this study prompts a re-evaluation of the potential influences on stock prices and encourages further exploration of interdisciplinary linkages between educational pursuits and financial performance. Just as precise hand movements are essential in surgery, our findings suggest that the subtle interplay between military technologies education and stock market outcomes may hold unforeseen implications for investors. The results of this study not only challenge conventional wisdom but also present an intriguing avenue for future research, offering a fresh perspective on the dynamics of stock price movements.

5. Discussion

The findings of this study reveal a noteworthy correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG), as supported by previous research. The robust positive correlation coefficient of 0.9812996 aligns with Smith, et al. (2015), who emphasized the impact of educational pathways on stock performance. This underscores the potential influence of educational backgrounds on financial markets, echoing the insights of Doe and Jones (2018) regarding the significance of technological expertise in shaping stock outcomes. As the saying goes, "I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug." Such unexpected connections between military technologies education and stock prices continue to captivate researchers and market enthusiasts alike.

The high R-squared value of 0.9629489 further reinforces the findings, aligning with General John Doe and Dr. Jane Smith's works on the pivotal role of education in shaping innovative solutions for modern challenges. When it comes to explaining Intuitive Surgical's stock price, it seems that technology education may wield a more substantial influence than anticipated, reflecting the intersection of academia and finance in unforeseen ways. As the battle of algorithms in the stock market mirrors the strategies on the battlefield, the confluence of military technologies education and financial performance takes center stage in shaping market dynamics.

Moreover, the statistical significance of the observed correlation, as indicated by the p-value of less than 0.01, echoes the cautionary warnings from social media posts on the potential market implications of military technologies education. Just as embracing humor in academic discourse can engage audiences and break down complex concepts, the unexpected convergence between educational pursuits in military technologies and applied sciences and the financial realm prompts a reevaluation of conventional perceptions. Adam Smith's wry observation about the invisible hand of the market finds a parallel in the study's integration of humor, emphasizing the dual importance of rigorous analysis and engaging discourse in understanding unexpected market drivers.

The unexpected correlation between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price challenges conventional wisdom and enriches the understanding of stock price movements. As investors navigate the complex fabric of market dynamics, the subtle interplay between military technologies education and stock market outcomes offers a thought-provoking avenue for future research and investment strategies. After all, as the stock market whispers its enigmatic cues, the study's unexpected findings beckon for a closer examination of the intricate links between

educational pursuits and financial performance, adding a twist of unexpected humor to the traditional discourse of market dynamics.

6. Conclusion

The striking correlation uncovered in this study between the number of Bachelor's degrees awarded in military technologies and applied sciences and Intuitive Surgical's stock price (ISRG) from 2012 to 2021 sheds light on the intricate and often surprising interplay between seemingly unrelated domains. It appears that the stock market may respond favorably to the subtle expertise nurtured in the pursuit of battlefield technologies. It's almost as if the market is saying, "I appreciate a good defense strategy when I see one."

The robust correlation coefficient of 0.9812996 indicates a remarkably strong positive relationship, suggesting that as the number of Bachelor's degrees in military technologies increases, there is a corresponding tendency for Intuitive Surgical's stock price to soar. It seems they've got a mutual admiration society going on, with "surgical precision" taking on a whole new meaning in the financial realm.

The high R-squared value of 0.9629489 underscores the substantial explanatory power of this relationship, indicating that approximately 96.29% of the variability in Intuitive Surgical's stock price can be elucidated by the number of Bachelor's degrees in military technologies. It's as if the stock market is saying, "You've got me figured out, almost like a well-calibrated surgical instrument."

The p-value of less than 0.01 further validates the statistical significance of this unexpected correlation, serving as a reminder that dismissing such unconventional connections may be as hazardous as performing a high-stakes surgery without proper training. It's as if the data is urging skeptics to consider a different perspective, saying, "Don't cut corners – thorough research is the best policy."

In light of these findings, it is evident that the interaction between military technologies education and stock market outcomes merits further exploration. This unprecedented correlation offers a thought-provoking avenue for future interdisciplinary research, highlighting the uncharted connections between educational pursuits and financial performance. As the saying goes, "There's always more than meets the eye – and in this case, more than meets the stock ticker."

Therefore, it can be concluded that no more research is needed in this area. The findings of this study stand as a testament to the unexpected, unconventional, and often whimsical nature of market influences, affirming the complex and dynamic landscape of financial dynamics. As Bilbo Baggins once said, "I don't know half of you half as well as I should like, and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve." With that philosophical musing, we leave this research at its conclusion, basking in the delightful peculiarity of our discoveries.