

# Role of Artificial intelligence in Defence & Strategy

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## 1. Abstract:

*Defence and military strategy are two areas where artificial intelligence (AI) has had a major impact. The incorporation of AI technology in modern warfare has revolutionized the way governments approach defence, battle, intelligence collecting, and operational planning. This research paper explores the applications of AI in defence and war strategy, examining its role in military decision-making, autonomous systems, cyber warfare, and intelligence analysis. The ethical and strategic effects of AI in combat as well as the possible future development of AI in international defence systems are also covered in the paper.*

## 2. Keywords:

Artificial intelligence (AI), Modern Warfare, Defence, Strategy, Autonomous weapon system (AWS), Decision-making, Cybersecurity

## 3. Introduction:

In the twenty-first century, artificial intelligence (AI) has become one of the most revolutionary technologies. From healthcare to banking, artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming a variety of sectors with its capacity to analyse enormous volumes of data, automate processes, and carry out complex operations with high precision. But its greatest and most strongly contested influence is in the field of war and defence. In addition to improving military capabilities, artificial intelligence (AI) in defence raises new issues and possibilities regarding operational planning, strategic decision-making, and the moral implications of autonomous systems.

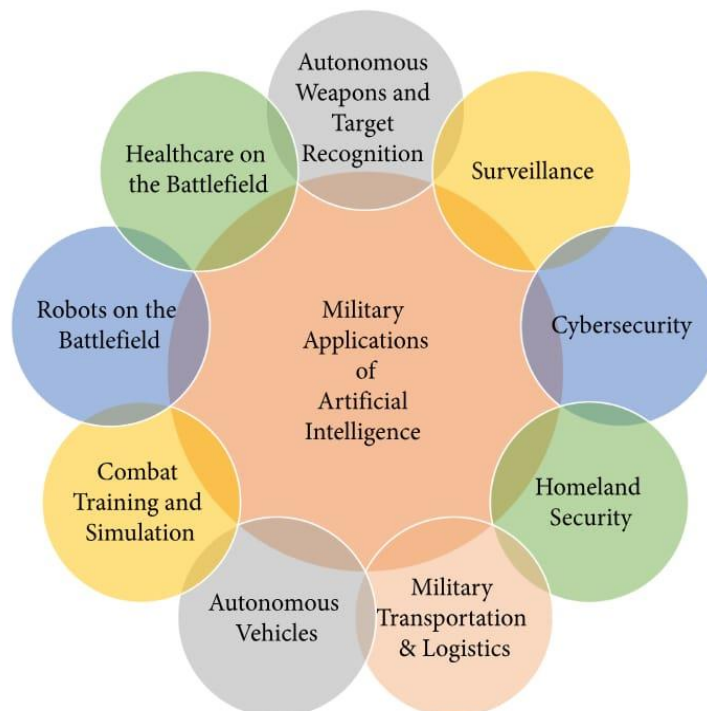
The uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in today's warfare will be discussed in this article, with particular attention paid to cybersecurity, autonomous weapons systems, and intelligence collection and analysis. Additionally, the ethical and legal issues surrounding the use of AI in military contexts will also be addressed.



*Img Src: Photo by Tech. Sgt. Cory Payne | USAF |*

#### 4. Artificial Intelligence's Place in Military Strategy:

The development today's military tactics is significantly influenced by artificial intelligence. Its impact may be divided into several areas, all of which support improved situational awareness, operational effectiveness, and quick decision-making.



*Img Src: INDIAS\_JOURNEY\_ON\_THE\_AI\_MILITARY\_BANDWAGON by IASGYAN*

## 4.1 Autonomous Weapons System

The creation of autonomous weapons systems (AWS) is one of the most well-known uses of AI in defence. These AI-powered devices, which range from autonomous ground and naval vehicles to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), perform difficult tasks with little assistance from humans. These devices can recognize targets, manoeuvre through challenging surroundings, and carry out operations based on real-time data thanks to AI algorithms.

AI-enabled autonomous systems have benefits in accuracy, speed, and flexibility. AI-powered UAVs, for example, are employed for targeted attacks, surveillance, and reconnaissance, significantly reducing human deaths while offering increased operational efficiency.

Advanced UAVs with their Artificial intelligence Capabilities:

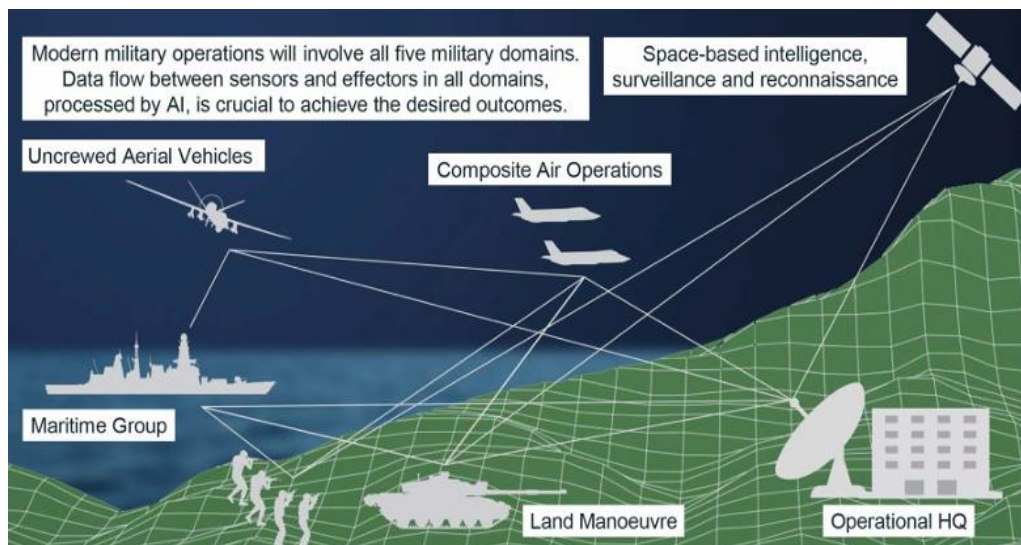
- **Autonomous Navigation:** AI makes it possible for UAVs to function with minimal assistance from humans, utilizing advanced sensors and algorithms to make decisions quickly and adjust to varying conditions.
- **Recognizing and tracking targets AI:** Drones with AI capabilities can recognize objects in real time using computer vision and deep learning algorithms, which enables them to track and identify targets with high accuracy even under difficult circumstances.
- **Swarming and Teaming:** AI makes it easier for several UAVs to work together in a collective voice allowing for swarming behaviours for combat or surveillance missions. Ant colony optimization is one algorithm that guarantees effective group dynamics.
- **Adaptive Mission Planning:** By Analyzing enormous volumes of data in real-time, AI improves operational efficiency and enables drones to modify their missions on the fly in response to shifting conditions.
- **Energy Efficiency and Compact Design:** AI-based supercomputers maximize power usage, allowing for dependable performance and additional mission durations.

However, there are serious ethical and strategic issues with autonomous systems operating without human supervision, including responsibility for civilian casualties and the risk for malfunctions or hacking.



*Img src: Freepik.com*

## 4.2 Intelligence Gathering and Data Analysis



*Img src : multidomain integration, Defence AI strategy*

Due to its ability to process and analyse data more quickly and accurately, artificial intelligence has significantly changed military intelligence. Human analysts have historically been used in military intelligence operations to evaluate data obtained from a variety of sources, including as satellites, reconnaissance drones, and intercepted communications. This process can be further quicker with the introduction of AI. For instance, massive datasets may be analysed by machine learning algorithms to find patterns and anomalies that people would miss.

Furthermore, AI-driven systems may improve strategic planning and decision-making by combining data from many sources and providing real-time suggestions depending on the information studied. AI is used in intelligence operations as a force multiplier in contemporary combat, when information is frequently a deciding factor.

Both major breakthroughs and difficulties have resulted from the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) into defence intelligence collection. The Israeli military has improved the effectiveness of detecting and pursuing suspected militants in Gaza and Lebanon by utilizing AI models from American firms such as Microsoft and OpenAI. This quick development has made it much easier for Israel to respond quickly to suspected extremists.

Commercial AI models were first created for non-military applications, but their use in combat has created significant ethical questions and increased the number of civilian deaths.

Similarly, Chinese academics have used Meta's open-source Llama model to create an AI tool called "ChatBIT" for military use. The goal of this initiative, which incorporates leading organizations connected to the PLA, is to improve the collection, processing, and operational decision-making of intelligence in military settings. According to reports, ChatBIT is 90% more successful than OpenAI's ChatGPT-4 and is designed for discussion and Q&A jobs in the military.

Advanced technologies have been developed in the United States as a result of the military's investment in AI-powered intelligence systems. The U.S. Air Force, for example, employed AI in 2022 to create a new kind of radar that could monitor and detect hypersonic missiles. The United States is now being protected from hypersonic threats by this radar system. Furthermore, in 2023, the U.S. Army created an AI-powered facial recognition system that can 99% accurately identify civilians and adversaries in challenging circumstances. U.S. forces are presently using this technique to monitor and identify ISIS members in Syria and Iraq.

Additionally, the U.S. Navy has created an AI-powered natural language processing system that can translate between Chinese and Russian with 95% accuracy. U.S. intelligence analysts currently utilize this technique to track military communications between Russia and China.

These advancements highlight how AI is revolutionizing defence intelligence collection by providing improved capabilities while simultaneously posing moral and practical questions.

### 4.3 Cybersecurity and Defence

In cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI) uses machine learning to identify threats, improve threat intelligence, and automate reactions. It protects communications and performs vulnerability assessments in defence; in combat, it analyses data to get strategic insights. AI also makes it possible to allocate resources and make decisions more quickly. It also helps strategists adjust their tactics by modelling situations, which eventually affects the outcome of conflicts.

- To improve defence capabilities, the incorporation of artificial intelligence (AI) into military cybersecurity systems is being actively investigated and deployed. The following are some key characteristics and observations from current sources:
- Cyber Vulnerabilities and AI-Enabled Military Systems:  
More effectively than with conventional techniques, AI integration aids in Analyzing



network traffic, spotting irregularities, and seeing patterns in big datasets. This makes it possible to respond to cyberthreats more quickly and precisely.

- **Improved Information and Cyber Operations:**  
The capabilities of military cyber operations are improved by the automation of defence mechanisms made possible by the incorporation of AI into cyber and information operations. AI technologies lessen the need for human operators to perform normal monitoring duties by assisting in proactive threat identification and response.
- **Robotics and AI in Military Defence:**  
Cybersecurity and other military defensive tactics are changing as a result of the development of AI and robotics. AI is a vital tool for protecting against complex assaults because of its capacity to handle enormous volumes of data in real-time and identify patterns.
- **Capabilities for AI Red Teaming:**  
To test the endurance of its systems and replicate cyberattacks, Army cyber experts are creating AI red teaming capabilities. This aids in spotting possible weak points and boosting defences before real threats materialize.
- **Briefings on AI Security:**  
To keep military and defence professionals informed about the most recent dangers and defensive strategies, regular briefings on AI cybersecurity are held. The significance of protecting AI systems and the data they handle is emphasized in these briefings.
- **Centre for Artificial Intelligence Security (AISC):**  
In order to protect the country's AI infrastructure, the NSA's Artificial Intelligence Security Centre is essential. The centre's main goal is to improve AI cybersecurity by working with academics and industry.  
These initiatives demonstrate how AI significantly improves military cybersecurity by strengthening defence systems' resilience and ability to manage sophisticated cyberthreats.

## 5. Strategic Decision – Making and AI:

AI's capacity to instantly process and evaluate vast volumes of data has important ramifications for military decision-making. Conventional military tactics frequently depend on human judgment for decoding intelligence and create plans.

However, by Analyzing real-time battlefield data and forecasting enemy movements, AI can offer a more data-driven strategy that enables commanders to make decisions more quickly and intelligently.



*Img Src: Quizlet.com*

## 5.1 Predictive analysis and Simulation:

Using machine learning models, defence planners can anticipate enemy actions, logistical challenges, and operational constraints; these simulations aid in the development of proactive strategies, the optimization of resource allocation, and the reduction of risks; predict when and where reinforcements may be required; and estimate the impact of potential threats in various strategic areas.

AI-powered predictive analytics allow military strategists to simulate a variety of scenarios and predict outcomes based on historical trends and current data.

And supply chains may save a lot of money and improve real-time logistics by implementing AI optimization. World Metrics claims that supply chain optimization powered by AI can:

- Cut transportation expenses by as much as 30%.
- Increase forecast precision by 75%.
- Cut back on unnecessary stock by as much as 25%.
- Increase the total robustness of the supply chain by 30%.

## 5.2 Challenges Integrating AI in supply chain Management:

- **Data Availability and Quality:** Artificial intelligence (AI) systems are highly dependent on massive datasets to work efficiently, yet supply chain data is frequently insufficient, inconsistent, or out-of-date, which makes it challenging for AI to produce precise forecasts and insights.

- **Integration with Current Systems:** AI integration necessitates major overhauls or adjustments to many supply chains' legacy systems, which may be expensive and time-consuming.
- **High Implementation Costs:** The initial investment necessary for AI integration, including software, hardware, and qualified individuals, can be large. This might be a problem, particularly for smaller businesses with tighter expenditures.
- **Absence of Skilled Workforce:** A workforce knowledgeable in data science, machine learning, and AI technologies is necessary for the implementation and management of AI systems. Such qualified experts are now in limited supply, which makes it challenging for businesses to locate the best candidates.
- **Change Management:** The organization's culture must change in order to implement AI in supply chain management. Because they are inexperienced with new technology or fear losing their jobs, employees may be not ready to change.

### 5.3 AI Decision – Making in Dynamic Combat Environments:

- **AI in the Planning of Wars:**  
Because AI agents greatly improve speed and accuracy in complicated and dynamic contexts, they are transforming military decision-making. These agents' ability to swiftly digest large volumes of data enables them to make snap decisions, which is essential in combat situations.
- **Decision-Making Confidence on the Battlefield:**  
AI can increase the confidence of judgments made on the battlefield, according to research. AI systems may give military leaders more precise and timely information by examining real-time data and trends, which lowers the uncertainty that comes with combat scenarios.
- **AI and Critical Thinking in Balance:**  
The speed of AI-enabled choices must be balanced with crucial human judgment when integrating AI into military decision-making. Even if AI is capable of working at the "speed of thought," human monitoring makes sure that moral and tactical concerns are upheld.
- **Increasing Dominance in Decision Making:**  
AI's contribution to defence is essential for boosting decision-dominance. Military leaders can gain a significant advantage in dynamic combat conditions by using AI systems, which can swiftly assess and synthesize information. In high-stakes situations, the ability of AI to digest information quickly can result in quicker and better conclusions.
- **Automation of OODA Loops:**  
By automating the Observe-Orient-Decide-Act (OODA) cycle, artificial intelligence (AI) can improve military operations' precision and speed. AI systems can respond more quickly than human operators by automating this decision-making procedure, giving them a major tactical edge.

### 5.4 AI – Enhanced Military Simulations for strategic planning:

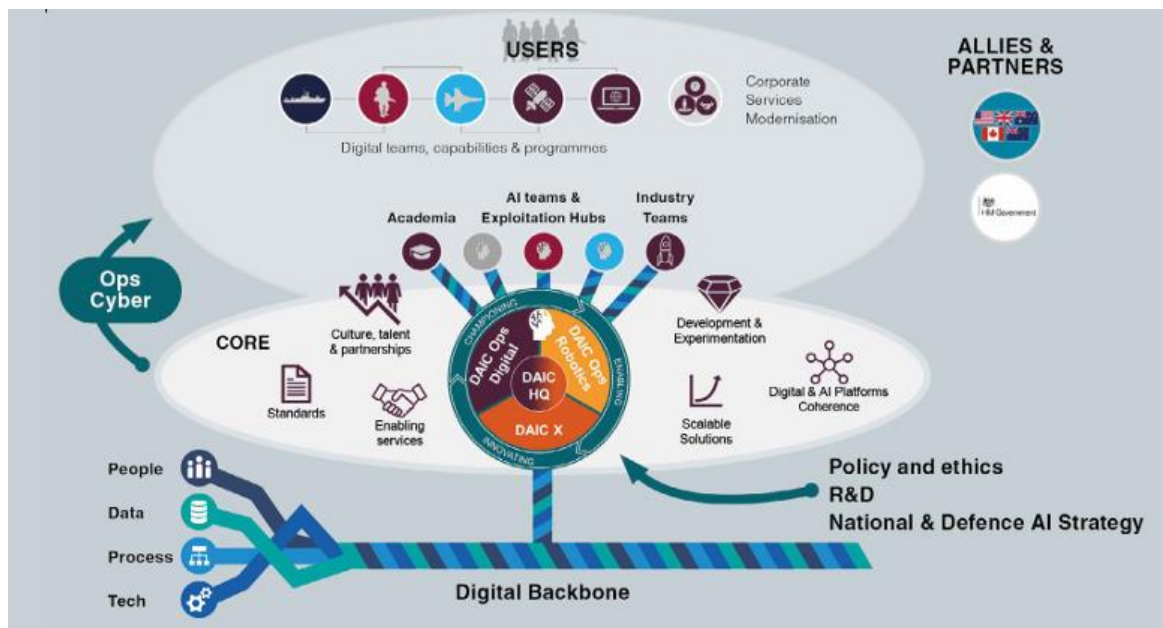


By offering thorough insights and empowering leaders to make dynamic strategy adjustments, AI-enhanced military simulations are revolutionizing strategic planning in the defence industry. Large volumes of data are analysed by these simulations, which is essential for preserving accuracy and agility in challenging operating settings.

- **Better Ability to Make Decisions:**  
AI systems examine enormous information to find trends and forecast results, enabling military officials to take well-informed choices more quickly.  
Numerous scenarios may be modelled via simulations, which can also shed light on the possible effects of certain tactics.
- **Improved Instruction:**  
AI simulations produce lifelike training settings that may change according to participant behaviour, resulting in more efficient training regimens.  
Numerous scenarios, even uncommon or intricate ones that are challenging to recreate in real life, can be simulated using these systems.
- **Efficiency in Operations:**  
AI facilitates better resource allocation and operational efficiency by foreseeing possible hazards and recommending the best course of action.  
AI systems' capacity for ongoing learning and adaptation guarantees that simulations stay current with the most recent intelligence and remain relevant.
- **Strategic Flexibility:**  
Strategic plans may be continuously updated as circumstances change thanks to real-time data analysis, which guarantees that military operations can swiftly adjust to new difficulties.  
By combining data from several sources, AI can improve strategic foresight and situational awareness.

## 6. Human – AI collaboration in war Strategy:

By offering practical insights derived from data analysis, artificial intelligence (AI) enhances military commanders rather than takes the place of human decision-makers. Large volumes of information may be processed quickly because of the collaborative method, but human judgment is still crucial for making final decisions. With AI helping with intelligence analysis and battlefield management while human commanders maintain ultimate decision-making authority, this combination of human knowledge and AI capabilities is viewed as the future of military strategy.



Img Src: Defence AI center Architecture, Defence AI strategy

- Co-Intelligence: Including AI improves strategic results while maintaining human supervision for moral issues.
- Strategic Action Plans: To increase mission efficiency, the U.S. Space Force's 2025 strategy places a strong emphasis on transforming into a data-driven, AI-enabled force.
- Real-World Applications: The growing dependence on AI in contemporary combat is illustrated by examples such as autonomous systems for battlefield support, predictive analytics for logistics, and AI in surveillance.

Human-AI cooperation in defence and military plans has advanced drastically, with notable instances from many countries. The following are a few of the most outstanding examples of this integration:

## 6.1 The conflict between Russia and Ukraine:

Both Russia and Ukraine have used AI for surveillance and intelligence collection throughout the ongoing conflict.

- AI-Powered Drones: For reconnaissance, both sides used self-governing drones outfitted with AI, which allowed for the real-time gathering and evaluation of information on troop movements and weaponry. Effective target neutralization is now possible on the battlefield because to improved decision-making skills brought in by this integration.

- Logistics Optimization: Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been essential in military logistics, aiding in supply chain management and equipment failure prediction, both of which are critical for preserving operational readiness.

## 6.2 The Department of Defence (DoD) of the United States:

Leading the charge to incorporate AI into defence plans has been the US military.

- Human-Machine Teaming (HMT): To improve situational awareness and decision-making, the DoD places a strong emphasis on HMT. This strategy optimizes military operations in several areas, such as logistics and danger identification, by fusing human judgment with AI's data processing capabilities.
- Decision Support Systems (DSS): AI-powered DSS offer detailed evaluations and suggestions to help military personnel make crucial choices about engagement tactics and force placement.

## 6.3 The Indian Defence Industry:

AI has been extensively used by India in its military activities.

- Autonomous Ground Vehicles: To lower personnel hazards and boost operational effectiveness, the Indian Army uses AI-powered unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) for missions including mine detection and long-range surveillance.
- Predictive maintenance systems, such as Pro-HM+, employ artificial intelligence (AI) to predict aviation equipment failures, enabling proactive maintenance that reduces downtime and improves mission readiness.

## 6.4 Simulations for Training:

Military training is being revolutionized by AI.

- Realistic Simulations: By using sophisticated AI models to provide realistic training scenarios, troops may increase their preparedness for a variety of combat scenarios without having to worry about the dangers of live exercises.
- AI can customize training regimens to meet the demands of specific soldiers, improving their abilities more successfully than conventional techniques.

## 7. Ethical Considerations and Challenges:

The use of AI in defence has many advantages, but there are also certain ethical issues that must be addressed.

### 7.1 Accountability and Responsibility:

The issue of responsibility is one of the main moral challenges pertaining to AI in combat. It may not always be evident who is in charge of a certain action in autonomous weapons systems, particularly if the device malfunctions or inadvertently causes injury. It may be challenging to guarantee moral behaviour during military operations if there are unclear accountability procedures in place.

It's critical to establish responsibility for AI judgments, particularly when mistakes are made. Organizations and developers must be accountable for the results generated by their AI systems and make sure that moral standards govern how they are implemented and utilized.

## 7.2 Privacy and Data Protection with human oversight:

Large volumes of personal data are frequently used in AI applications, which raises privacy and data security issues. To prevent illegal access and exploitation of user data, ethical AI must place a high priority on strong data protection mechanisms.

Even with AI's advances, human monitoring is still essential. AI systems shouldn't function alone; ongoing human oversight makes sure they adhere to social norms, legal requirements, and ethical standards.

## 7.3 Transparency and Explainability:

Gaining confidence in AI systems requires transparency. It's important for users to comprehend how AI models make judgments, which calls for open communication on the algorithms and decision-making procedures they employ. Explainable AI promotes responsibility by assisting users in understanding the reasoning behind results.

## 8. Ethical frameworks and Recent Developments in military AI:

### 8.1 Key principles and Frameworks Designed by Institutions for military AI:

- Department of Defence (USA) Ethical principles for AI (2020): To guarantee responsible usage in military operations, the U.S. Department of Defence created ethical rules for artificial intelligence. <sup>[5]</sup>
- Ethical implications of AI in warfare: Queen Mary University of London investigates how artificial intelligence (AI) is changing how we view violence and how it challenges accepted ideas about moral behaviour.
- Comparative Ethics of AI Methods:  
NC Rowe investigates the relative morality of several AI techniques applied in military environments.
- The Ethics of Automated Warfare:  
CIGI research discusses the morality of giving AI systems decision-making authority in combat situations.
- ICRC insights:  
International committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) examines ethical problems of AI in military decision support systems, concentrating on larger ethical, legal and political

- Responsible and Ethical Military AI:  
How different allies handle ethical risks when implementing military AI is covered by Georgetown University's Centre for Security and Emerging Technology.

These are frameworks which followed by many militaries in their AI integration.

## 8.2 Recent developments and initiatives in military AI (2024)

- Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI: The purpose of this declaration is to promote global agreement on responsible conduct with regard to the creation and application of military artificial intelligence technology.<sup>[6]</sup>
- CDAO's Crowdsourced AI Assurance Pilot: The Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO) has demonstrated its dedication to improving the security and efficacy of military AI applications by sponsoring a pilot study centered on AI assurance in military health.<sup>[7]</sup>
- US AI Safety Institute Taskforce:  
This taskforce was formed in November 2024 with the goal of improving AI safety in military applications.<sup>[8]</sup>
- DOD's Chief AI Officer Initiatives: A Rapid Capability Cell was established by the DOD's Chief AI Officer in December 2024 to investigate AI pilots aimed at enhancing military capabilities.<sup>[7]</sup>
- Global AI Research Agenda: This agenda encourages worldwide cooperation in AI research with military applications and identifies important research possibilities.<sup>[8]</sup>
- 2024 DHS Artificial Intelligence Roadmap: With a focus on cybersecurity and system security improvements, this document presents the Department of Homeland Security's strategic strategy for incorporating AI into its operations.<sup>[6]</sup>
- GAO Report on Artificial Intelligence: Research produced in September 2024 gives views regarding the implications of AI for national security and military operations.<sup>[5]</sup>
- AI Task Force Report: A report outlining the conclusions and suggestions of the AI Task Force, which concentrated on the strategic application of AI in military situations, was released in December 2024.<sup>[10]</sup>

## 9. Conclusion:

By enabling new capabilities in cybersecurity, intelligence analysis, and autonomous systems, artificial intelligence is transforming modern combat. Despite the obvious strategic advantages of AI in defence, there are substantial implementation obstacles. To guarantee that these technologies are applied sensibly and in accordance with international law, the ethical issues surrounding the use of AI in combat need to be carefully considered and regulated.

Military tactics must change as AI develops further in order to take use of everything that it has to offer while reducing the hazards that it presents. In order to solve the strategic, ethical, and legal issues surrounding AI in defence and guarantee its responsible application in the framework of international security, further research and international cooperation will be essential.

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