

Fact Sheet:

2018 DoD Artificial Intelligence Strategy

Harnessing AI to Advance Our Security and Prosperity

Purpose

The *2018 Department of the Defense (DoD) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy* articulates the Department's approach and methodology for accelerating the adoption of AI-enabled capabilities to strengthen our military, increase the effectiveness and efficiency of our operations, and enhance the security of the Nation.

Central Challenge

AI is poised to transform every industry and is expected to impact every corner of the Department, spanning operations, training, sustainment, force protection, recruiting, healthcare, and many others. Other nations, particularly China and Russia, are making significant investments in AI for military purposes. These investments threaten to erode our technological and operational advantages and destabilize the international order. As stewards of the security and prosperity of the U.S. public, the Department must leverage the creativity and agility of the United States to address the technical, ethical, and societal challenges posed by AI and realize its opportunities to preserve the peace and security for future generations.

Key Themes

- Thoughtful, responsible, and human-centric adoption of AI has the potential to transform all aspects of DoD positively, thereby supporting and protecting U.S. service members, safeguarding U.S. citizens, defending allies and partners, and improving the effectiveness, agility, affordability, and speed of operations;
- The Department is emphasizing the rapid, iterative delivery of AI and a generation of new operating concepts, and will harvest lessons to create repeatable processes and systems across DoD;
- The Department will scale its use of AI using decentralized development and experimentation, enabled by a common foundation of shared data, reusable tools, frameworks and standards, and cloud and edge services. This approach will align with and leverage enterprise cloud adoption;
- The Department will cultivate workforce talent via comprehensive AI training, bring critical AI skills into service through recruitment and partnerships, and encourage a culture of rapid experimentation and iterative, risk-informed approaches to delivery;
- Strong partnerships are essential and will be formed via enhanced alignment of civilian AI leadership, the formation of open AI missions to address societal challenges, funding for long-term research relevant to defense, and evolved alliances and partnerships internationally;
- The Department will lead in AI ethics and safety by articulating its vision and guiding principles for using AI in a lawful and ethical manner, adopting policies as necessary to ensure that AI systems are used responsibly and ethically, using AI to improve civilian protections under the law of war, investing in R&D for resilient, robust, reliable, secure, and explainable AI, and promoting transparency;
- The Joint AI Center (JAIC) is the focal point for carrying out the DoD AI Strategy.

DoD Strategic Approach for Artificial Intelligence

DoD is taking immediate action to realize the benefits of AI. The following is an overview of the strategic approach that will guide our efforts to accelerate AI adoption:

- Delivering AI-enabled capabilities that address key missions;
- Scaling AI's impact across DoD through a common foundation that enables decentralized development and experimentation;
- Cultivating a leading AI workforce;
- Engaging with commercial, academic, and international allies and partners;
- Leading in military ethics and AI safety.

The Joint Artificial Intelligence Center is a focal point of the DoD AI Strategy

The Department established the JAIC to accelerate the delivery of AI-enabled capabilities, scale the Department-wide impact of AI, and synchronize DoD AI activities to expand Joint Force advantages. Specifically, the JAIC will:

- Rapidly deliver AI-enabled capabilities to address key missions, strengthening current military advantages and enhancing future AI research and development efforts with mission needs, operational outcomes, user feedback, and data;
- Establish a common foundation for scaling AI's impact across DoD, leading strategic data acquisition and introducing unified data stores, reusable tools, frameworks and standards, and cloud and edge services;
- Facilitate AI planning, policy, governance, ethics, safety, cybersecurity, and multilateral coordination;
- Attract and cultivate a world-class AI team to supply trusted subject matter expertise on AI capability delivery and create new accelerated learning experiences in AI across DoD at all levels of professional education and training.

Implementation

- The JAIC was established in 2018 and reports to the DoD Chief Information Officer (CIO).
- The Department is identifying budget and resource impacts for the Fiscal Year 2020 budget.