

# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

## 2023 Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence Adoption Strategy

*Accelerating Decision Advantage*



*The Deputy Secretary of Defense published the 2023 DoD Data, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Adoption Strategy on November 2, 2023, unifying previous strategic guidance and enabling stronger alignment and synchronization to scale advanced capabilities for use across the enterprise. The Strategy was developed by the Chief Digital and AI Office (CDAO) and describes the approach to improving the organizational environment within which DoD leaders and warfighters will be able to make rapid, well-informed decisions by expertly leveraging high-quality data, advanced analytics, and AI for enduring decision advantage.*

### KEY POINTS

**To drive the diffusion of data, analytics, and AI technologies across the enterprise, the Department needs alignment behind a unified adoption strategy—one that emphasizes learning and agility.**

### BACKGROUND

The DoD has been investing in AI and responsibly fielding data- and AI-enabled systems for over 60 years. Today, data, analytics, and AI technologies are increasingly available to DoD Components and providing value to our service members.

Alongside industry's advancements, DoD has for years made steady and swift improvements to its data foundation and analytics capabilities: experimenting with AI through research and development, integrating these technologies into business and warfighting functions, and laying the foundation for their use at scale. As our investment, experimentation, and innovation continues and accelerates, our task now is to drive the diffusion of these technologies across the enterprise..

This 2023 DoD Data, Analytics, and AI Adoption Strategy builds upon and supersedes the 2018 AI Strategy and the 2020 Data Strategy to continue the Department's digital transformation.

The urgency of the strategic environment and the scale at which the Department must operate are formidable. The Department is well-positioned to excel because it has established a foundation of strategic guidance informed by lessons learned from hands-on initiatives over the last several years.

- The Strategy employs an agile approach to adoption that prioritizes speed of delivery, continuous learning, and responsible development
- Accelerating the adoption of advanced data, analytics, and artificial intelligence technologies presents an unprecedented opportunity to equip Department leaders at all levels with the data they need to make better decisions faster, from the boardroom to the battlefield.
- Realizing the full promise of data, analytics, and AI is not the exclusive responsibility of a single organization or program. It requires a concerted effort by every unit, leader, servicemember and our partners and allies across the globe.
- As a result of implementing this Strategy, DoD leaders and warfighters will be able to make rapid, well-informed decisions by expertly leveraging high-quality data, advanced analytics, and AI as part of a continuous, outcome-driven, and user-focused development, deployment, and feedback cycle.

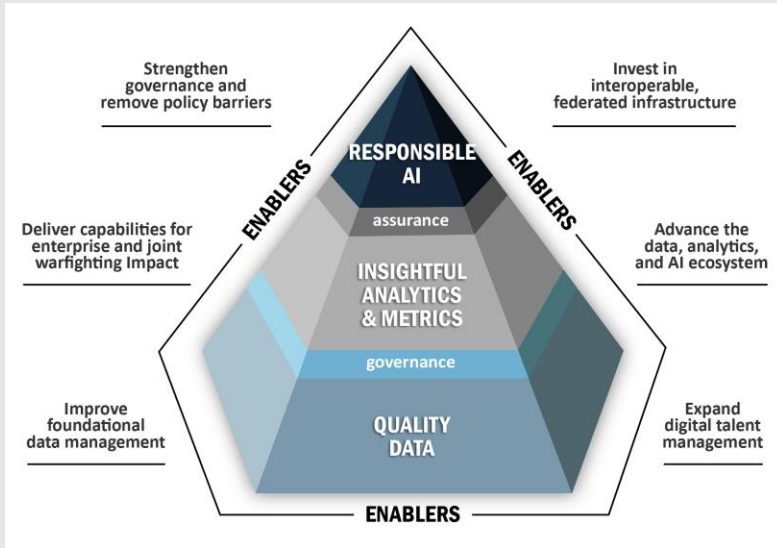


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DoD Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office

## DOD AI HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



The Department will focus strategic efforts on several interdependent goals that support the DoD AI Hierarchy of Needs. The AI Hierarchy of Needs is a pyramid with quality data as its foundation, because all analytic and AI capabilities require trusted, high-quality data.

The next layer in the Hierarchy is insightful analytics, the foundational models and visualizations required for DoD leaders to understand their domains and the key variables impacting outcomes in those domains.

At the top of the pyramid is Responsible AI, the Department's dynamic approach to the design, development, and use of AI capabilities that is consistent with the DoD AI Ethical Principles.

Around the pyramid are enablers, such as digital talent management, that help sustain the Hierarchy of Needs.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. What is new in this strategy from the 2020 Data Strategy and 2018 AI Strategy?

A. The 2018 AI Strategy emphasized the need to build centralized infrastructure for AI development, bridge AI technology developments from the Department's research and engineering communities and exert international leadership in military ethics and AI safety. The 2020 Data Strategy envisioned the Department as a data-centric organization that can employ data supporting advanced capabilities for operational advantage and increased efficiency, and oriented enterprise data management activities toward the VAULTIS<sup>1</sup> goal framework. The 2023 Strategy orients the Department's data, analytics, and AI adoption activities toward an 'AI Hierarchy of Needs', with quality data as its foundation, and a focus on speed, agility, learning, and responsibility.

### Q. Who was involved in drafting the document? Was it socialized prior to publication?

A. CDAO staff worked closely with all DoD Components to develop the 2023 Data, Analytics, and AI Adoption Strategy. Each Component was involved in both the initial drafting and subsequent rounds of coordination to ensure that critical equities were included in the document. CDAO staff worked with the submitting Component to adjudicate critical comments to the mutual satisfaction of the CDAO and the Component. At the time of publication, each of the Component Heads concurred with the Strategy as written.

### Q. How will this strategy be implemented?

A. Based on lessons learned from implementing the previous DoD AI and Data Strategies, outcomes-based performance indicators will be established, refined, and monitored in coordination with the CDAO Council. CDAO staff will release expanded implementation guidance for the Strategy that describes the Component-level feedback loop through the CDAO Council, and the follow-on actions required to assess progress against the Department's data, analytics, and AI strategic goals.

### Q. How will this help DoD compete globally?

A. Accelerating the adoption of these technologies presents an unprecedented opportunity to equip leaders at all levels of the Department with the data they need, as well as harness the full potential of the decision-making power of our people. The National Defense Strategy also describes the need for the U.S. to sustain and strengthen deterrence against strategic competitors. Accelerating adoption of data, analytics, and AI will enable enduring decision advantage, allowing DoD leaders to prioritize investments to strengthen deterrence; link cross-cutting campaign outcomes that counter our competitors' coercive measures; and deploy continuous advancements in technological capabilities to creatively address complex national security challenges in this decisive decade.



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1. VAULTIS: Visible – Understandable – Linked – Trustworthy – Interoperable – Secure.