



The US Army Creates a New Specialty for Artificial Intelligence

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Washington – The United States Army has embarked on an unprecedented transformation, decisively focusing on **artificial intelligence (AI)** as a fundamental lever for the future of defense. According to leaked internal documents confirmed by military sources, the creation of a new **military specialty for the troops** – designated **49B** – entirely dedicated to AI and *machine learning* is being defined. In parallel, the establishment of a **role for technical officers (warrant officers)** and a **concentration area for officers** is planned, to develop a complete pipeline of experts to be integrated at every operational level.

A New Military Career for AI

The 49B specialty represents a paradigm shift: it will be the first time in over a year that the US Army introduces a new organic position. The last was in 2023 with the *talent acquisition specialists* (42T), tasked with strengthening recruiter selection.

With this move, the Pentagon intends to create a stable community of military personnel trained

in **data science, predictive algorithms, automation, and autonomous systems management**, to be directly integrated with operational units. It is not just about technical support, but a cultural transformation: integrating decision-making and operational processes with the support of “intelligent” machines, capable of processing information in real-time and suggesting tactical solutions on the field.

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From the Army AI Task Force to the Digital Future

The path began in 2018, when then-Army Secretary Mark Esper established the **Army AI Task Force**. From that experience, the **Army Artificial Intelligence Integration Center** was born, tasked with bridging the technological gap of the Armed Forces.

Today, under the impetus of the **second Trump administration**, modernization is accelerating: exercises like the **Project Convergence Capstone 5** at Fort Irwin (California) have shown soldiers and robots operating side by side in integrated man-machine formations, outlining a glimpse of the battlefield of the future.

Despite the announcements, the reality remains complex. Frontline units are still in the early stages of technological integration, and a unified doctrine for the large-scale use of AI and robotics has yet to be developed. Much of the work remains experimental and confined to pilot units. However, the direction is clear: the conflict of the future will not be decided solely by tanks and infantry, but also by **algorithms, sensors, and autonomous systems**.

The Role of the Private Sector and Ethical Challenges

A crucial aspect of the initiative is the growing collaboration with the tech industry. **Army Secretary Dan Driscoll** has initiated an unprecedented rapprochement with **Silicon Valley**, even going so far as to **appoint high-tech company executives as Reserve officers**. A choice that has sparked criticism for potential conflicts of interest, but reflects the need to quickly attract expertise that the civilian world possesses to a greater extent than the military environment. Driscoll explained during his Senate confirmation hearing:

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"We have had a lot of interest from innovators – small start-ups, large corporations, anyone. The challenge is to get into their research and development cycles early, so as to direct what they build before it's too late."

Towards the Era of Military Intelligence

The creation of the 49B and the corresponding officer careers marks a turning point. It means that the US Army is no longer merely “experimenting” with AI, but now considers it a **full-fledged military professional sector**, with training paths, career advancements, and structural employment in operations.

Although questions remain about timing and ethical implications, one thing is clear: the era of digital warfare has already begun, and the US Army wants to arrive with soldiers trained not only to handle rifles but also to program algorithms.