AI Trends

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Makani Lab · AI Trends weekly
DoD · China / Indo-Pacific · Cyber · Space · Frontier labs & policy

> **BLUF** — Autonomy moved into the force: a carrier strike group sailed with an unmanned surface vessel, the Army stood up FASCOM, and ARCYBER put AI agents on its network. The White House AI task force made Under Secretary Emil Michael lead on incident reporting. Attention item: China keeps adding AI compute despite US controls.

By the numbers · 7d (vs prior) DoD / military AI **12** (-5) · China / Indo-Pacific **9** (-6) · Cyber + AI **8** (-5) · Space + AI **3** (+0) | **Rising** Europe / EU +4 | **Most-covered labs** OpenAI 14, Claude 11, Anthropic 10 | 36 items from 9 sources

DoD / military AI

adoption, programs, C2 and targeting

A carrier strike group deploys with an unmanned surface vessel for the first time

Acting SECNAV Hung Cao said the Theodore Roosevelt group sailed Oct. 8 with a medium-to-large USV; the Navy has not named the type. Christopher Miller is the new PAE for robotic and autonomous systems. (DefenseScoop · 16 Oct)

So what: Unmanned hulls are now in the deployed fleet and will draw on joint C2, PNT and comms links.

Army stands up FASCOM; DoD's autonomy group becomes JTF-Autonomous Warfare

A three-star will lead FASCOM, building corps-level autonomous fires, watercraft and aviation units. The DAWG became JTF-Autonomous Warfare under the drone portfolio manager; Task Force Easy iterates on FPV drones. (DefenseScoop · 13 Oct; DefenseScoop · 14 Oct)

So what: New autonomy commands will compete for spectrum, PNT and ISR support in theater plans.

China / Indo-Pacific

PRC AI-military, US-China AI diplomacy

Chinese firms bought 1M+ export-compliant Nvidia GPUs in a year to fill AI compute gaps

The Financial Times reported, via The Neuron, that the gaming and workstation chips comply with US controls. IDC says Nvidia's China AI-chip share fell to 34% as Huawei reached 28% (Reuters, via Transformer). (The Neuron · 14 Oct; Transformer · 16 Oct)

So what: Controls slow, but do not stop, Chinese AI compute growth; plan on steady PLA access.

Beijing proposes export controls on AI model weights and chip designs; Taiwan to curb chips

Bloomberg reported, via Transformer, China's proposal and Taiwan's plan to criminalize some AI chip exports to China. ChinaTalk's Saif Khan argues DUV controls could leave China ~100x fewer AI chips by the mid-2030s. (Transformer · 16 Oct; ChinaTalk · 17 Oct)

So what: Both sides now treat AI models and chips as controlled strategic goods.

Cyber + AI

AI-enabled intrusion and defense

Army Cyber Command moves AI agents from the sandbox onto its DODIN network

Task Force Lexington mapped a full Cyber Protection Team of agents that now work under human checks and shares tools with DCDC. Two Project Griffin agent-defense awards were due this week. (DefenseScoop · 12 Oct)

So what: Agent-run network defense is arriving; space C2 networks will need matching guardrails.

AI-found bugs push Microsoft's October patch past 1,400 flaws

Krebs reported, via The Neuron, that Microsoft credited AI models with finding many of the flaws, up from September's record of nearly 1,000. (The Neuron · 14 Oct)

So what: AI-speed bug discovery outpaces manual patch cycles on Windows-based mission systems.

Frontier labs & policy

lab and government decisions that bear on the force

White House AI task force sets agenda; Under Secretary Emil Michael leads incident reporting

Semafor reported, via Transformer, a risk report on cyber, bio and model control and an accord working group. Firms must notify third parties of incidents; export controls may enforce the accord (AI Daily Brief). (Transformer · 16 Oct; AI Daily Brief · 16 Oct)

So what: DoD will shape how AI incidents are reported, including those touching defense networks.

Nothing significant this week: Space + AI

WATCH NEXT WEEK

- Project Griffin AI cyber-defense awards and Task Force Secure's first agents.
- Which USV sailed with the Theodore Roosevelt group, and what it does en route.
- Beijing's final export-control list for AI model weights, chips and agents.