

# Artificial Intelligence reshaping United States of America's National Defense strategy

Shakh e Nabat<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> School of Politics and IR, Quaid-I-Azam University, Pakistan

\*Corresponding author E-mail: [shakhnabat577@gmail.com](mailto:shakhnabat577@gmail.com)

Receive: Nov. 27, 2025  
Revised: Jan. 16, 2026  
Accepted: Jan. 17, 2026  
Online: Jan. 18, 2026

## Abstract

Artificial Intelligence is an emerging, transforming, and revolutionizing technology of the 21st century. It has wide-ranging applications from education and healthcare to defense and security. It is rapidly transforming the modern defense system, making it faster, smarter, and more efficient. The ethics regarding the use of AI are in turmoil, but global powers would not wait for them to become established principles, as they find it imperative to maximize their power and capability in every sector, especially defense, where, from automated drones to real-time threat situations, AI is redefining warfare, national security, and defense strategies. National Defense strategy 2022 of the United States is one such strategy that entails within it the concept of integrated deterrence to use all means at disposal with the cooperation of allies and create a defense infrastructure with advanced and effective Artificial Intelligence. Followed by Data analytics and adoptive strategy 2023 that outlines the ways in which Artificial intelligence will be incorporated to answer the operational needs and prepare United States of America for the Future Advanced Warfare.

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Published by ARDA.

*Keywords:* Artificial Intelligence, Integrated deterrence, National Defense strategy, AI adoptive strategy

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Artificial Intelligence

A technology that is endowed with intentionality, adaptability and intelligence with wide ranging application in almost all spheres of life. Artificial intelligence is equated with human intelligence and is expected to solve tasks in real time situation after the provision of data. This technology was developed to help people from different walks of life in taking better decisions using sensors, digital data, combining information from different sources and using remote inputs [1]. Today, it is integrated and deployed in different sectors such as finance, national security, health care, criminal justice and numerous others. The efficiency and effectiveness of AI can be measured via the opportunities it presents for economic development and other sectors. In terms of economic benefits there was a project undertaken by Price Water House Coopers which estimated that “Artificial Intelligence technologies could increase Global GDP by 15.7 trillion dollars, a full 14% by 2030”. McKinsey Global Institute study of China found that AI automation can give Chinese economy a productivity injection that can result in GDP growth transforming from 0.8 to 1.4 annually though that is dependent on the speed of



adoption [2]. In case of healthcare it has drastically improved healthcare research and it helps in better diagnosis in enabling more personalized treatment. Another feature of this technology is that it is still evolving and it will improve in the coming decades and will be integrated and deployed more effectively in almost all the sectors of life.

### **1.2. Artificial Intelligence and its use in defense**

AI has been reshaping the defense landscape bringing unprecedented opportunities and alongside several concerns. The potential of AI in defense is vast as it can streamline operations, enhance decision making and increase the effectiveness and accuracy of military operations. Drones, autonomous vehicles are capable of performing missions that are dangerous and impossible for humans. AI powered analytics can help in bringing strategic advantages by predicting and identifying threats. Certain Key advancements such as autonomous systems, predictive analysis and cybersecurity has the potential to reshape the military and defense sectors. Autonomous systems especially drones and unmanned vehicles are a key area of progress. These systems are capable of handling range of tasks from reconnaissance missions, logistics support to direct combat scenarios. Predictive analysis can analyze vast amounts of data to spot patterns and trends that might be impossible for human analysts to discern. This would contribute to pro-active defense strategy and effective resource allocation. It is crucial in terms of Cyber-attacks or threats. It can identify and respond to potential threats faster than traditional methods in real time. As they have adaptive capabilities and will learn with each attack resulting in continued improvement of defensive capabilities. Though the militarization of AI contracts with ethical concerns as there is no effective governance mechanism to manage its use and mitigate potential hazards. There are suggestions to bring standardization in the realm of Artificial Intelligence as it evolves and becomes more integrated into the society. Standardization can ensure AI system's consistency, dependability and fairness while fostering innovation and competition.

### **1.3. Artificial Intelligence and United States of America**

United States of America has been at the forefront of AI innovation with the help of tech giants (NVidia, AMD), start-ups and resources to utilize AI in its full capacity. U.S AI market is growing and it stands at 74 billion dollars [3]. From Obama to Trump United States Government has been consistent in focusing and implementing acts and policies regarding Artificial Intelligence. In President Obama's term there was research and development plan in 2016[4] about National Artificial Intelligence research and development strategic plan. In President Trump's former tenure there was summary of the 2018 department of defense Artificial intelligence strategy: harnessing AI to advance our security and prosperity [5]. Followed by an executive order 13859: maintaining American leadership in Artificial intelligence. In president Biden's time period there was Advancing American AI act in 2021. President trump's second tenure will abandon the safety centric approach to AI as was mentioned by vice president of the United States of America in his speech at Grand Palais on February 2025 AI action summit in Paris. Trump in his recent visit to the Middle East announced a series of deals with UAE and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to import huge quantities of advanced AI Chips that will be housed in new data centers that will serve US and Gulf AI firms that are training and operating cutting-edge models [6]. This will have on impact on the National Defense strategy 2025 of United States of America that is yet to be finalized and published for the masses. Though the inclusion of Artificial Intelligence in the National Defense strategy has already been in place, and it is being integrated in almost all the sectors of deterrence to create better defense for United States of America.

### **1.4 Artificial Intelligence reshaping USA's National Defense strategy**

National Defense Strategy of the United States of America is prepared by the office of the secretary of defense and is released every four years. Last National Defense strategy was released in 2022. In that particular strategy, challenges, threats to United States of America is underlined and outline of the countermeasures is mentioned. National Defense strategy of 2022 is an extremely important document as it was the first time in a National Defense strategy nuclear posture review and missile defense review was integrated. In its foreword by the President Biden it was mentioned that the coming decade is a decisive decade and United states must prepare itself in accordance with that. National Defense strategy 2022 was designed accordingly. Threats and challenges were outlined, and the counter measures were mentioned.

## **2. Theoretical framework**

Offensive realism will be the theoretical framework applied to National Defense strategy of 2022 which is a neo realist school of thought and is propagated by John Mearsheimer [7]. According to offensive realism as it

is a structural theory of international politics, anarchic nature of the international politics compels great powers to maximize their power and compete for regional hegemony (in terms of United states of America, power maximization is for global hegemony) to ensure their survival.

### 3. Research method

The research Method used for this research paper was content analysis which is a data analysis technique. The data analysed in this research paper is both qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative in terms of identification of themes and Quantitative in terms of frequency of words. Taguette software was used to create patterns and themes and also to measure the frequency of numbers in National Defense strategy 2022 and Data analytics and AI adoptive strategy 2023. Method was used to analyse the defense related initiatives by USA that included the use of AI in decision making and the impact this advancement in technology will have on other competing states. The advancements of USA in AI domain especially related to AI till now can be used as evidence to advance this research.

### 4. Analysis

#### 4.1. National Defense strategy 2022

Using Taguette software the core theme identified was integrated deterrence. Then threats and challenges were outlined and priorities of strategy for counter measures were mentioned. One of the countermeasures entails the integration of Artificial intelligence more actively and effectively and in order to create a larger data base the co-operation of United States allies would be required. In total eight themes were identified and their frequency in the National Defense strategy was recorded using the Taguette software. The following table depicts the themes identified and frequency of the words in NDS 2022.

Table 1. Demonstrating the themes and their frequency in NDS 2022

| Theme  | Description   | Frequency of words |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Integrated deterrence                                    | Developing, combining and coordinating strength to maximum effect. It is the center piece of NDS 2022.  | 6                  |
| Threats  | China, Russia, North Korea, Iran, Violent extremist Organizations   | 7                  |
| Challenges   | Geo-political, technological, economic and environment  | 2                  |
| Priorities of the strategy                               | Defend the Homeland, deter strategic attacks, deter aggression, ensure United States future military advantage, building a resilient Joint Force and Defense ecosystem  | 4                  |
| Artificial Intelligence/Emerging Technologies/technology | Artificial Intelligence, quantum science, biotechnology, space technology has the potential not just to change the kinetic conflict but also to disrupt day to day U.S supply chain and logistics             | 19                 |
| Gray zone  | Competitors increasingly engage in gray zone operations at odds with international norms and below the threshold of a credible military response.   | 3                  |
| Allies   | Indo-Pacific (Japan, Australia, India, Taiwan)<br>Europe: NATO states   | 4                  |
| Nuclear forces   | The PRC and Russia are also working to augment their growing nuclear forces with a broader set of kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities, including cyber, space, information, and advanced conventional strike | 1                  |
| Decisive decade  | A ten-year window for leadership to tackle our era's defining challenges  | 1                  |

#### 4.1.1. Integrated deterrence

A concept that deals with the integration of all the tools of national power across domains such as geography and spectrum of conflict while working with allies and partners. It is considered as the core theme of National Defense strategy of 2022. In this strategy the word integrated deterrence was used six times entailing within it the message that there will be development, combination and coordinating of all strengths to the maximum effect. Michael and Ivana in their article named Integrated deterrence as a defense planning concept are of the view that United states can gain significant deterrence and warfighting value from improved integration especially through the coordination across services throughout the wider US government with allies and its partners [8]. Though experts from center for New American Security are of a different view. They argue that theoretically it is a great concept however in practical terms it remains unclear what it entails especially from its partners and allies. For that they developed a framework as they are of the view that integrated deterrence pinnacle is strategic integration which have been the hardest to achieve as strategic and policy difference have long been a significant barrier to deepening integration with allies and partners. The framework suggests that there should be improved information sharing with allies and partners to enhance integration and to incentivize their behavior throughout its bureaucracy. There should be extended international traffic in arms regulation exemptions to all National technology and Industrial base members to promote integration and resilience. To achieve strategic integration, there should be co- development and co-production of key capabilities to strengthen the combined defense industrial base capacity. There should be network and data architecture for Joint All Domain Command and Control that can include allies and partners [9].

#### 4.1.2. Threats and challenges to United States of America

Threats as stated in National Defense strategy 2022 to the United States of America are from China, Russia, North Korea, Iran and violent extremist organizations. These threats with name of the adversaries as United States consider them has been mentioned seven times in the National Defense Strategy 2022. The Challenges these threats posed are in the domains of geo-politics, technology, economy excluding environment which has been mentioned as a challenge but is not associated with any of the above mentioned states. the challenges are mentioned not more than twice in the National Defense strategy 2022. In terms of The china threat there have been challenges in all three domains be it economic, geo-political or technological. In terms of economy, United States and China are two of the largest economies in the world the status of their trade relationships has a compounding implication for both countries and global economy [10]. According to world bank their economies combined comprised 43% of global gross domestic product and nearly 48% of the global manufacturing output in 2023 [11]. Under the Biden Administration when the strategy was designed the US-China tariffs were relatively stable as highlighted by the Peterson Institute for International economics. They mentioned that in Biden administration the tariffs were raised from 19.3% to 20.8%. Though now under trump's second tenure economic relations are tense than they were before and apparently the economic threat in terms of China had grown larger than it was ever before. In his second tenure a tariff war started between China and United states of America when USA imposed 10% tariff on Chinese goods in February which doubled to 20% a month later. China retaliated with its own tariffs and the war of words between president xi and president trump led to US imposing 145% levy on Chinese imports. In return Beijing introduced a 125% duty on some US goods. In May, after the talks in Geneva US and China agreed to cancel some tariffs altogether and suspend others for 90 days at the time of writing [12]. However, till now they have accused each other of violating the terms agreed. In terms of geo-politics, China and United States lock their heads in the Indo-Pacific region. As United States has long been working on the Asia Pivot or Indo Pacific Strategy and China has also been a key player in the Indo-Pacific region. United States has expanded its policy as was mentioned in the Belfour Centre for Science and International Relations paper via establishment of QUAD which is a non-traditional multi-lateral grouping of India, Japan and United States of America. The AUKUS security pact between Australia, United Kingdom and USA. In addition to that the partners in Blue Pacific initiative aimed at promoting greater alignment with the Pacific island nations. China in response has developed a counter strategy of diplomatic outreach actively engaging with ASEAN States and Middle Eastern States along with BRI (Belt Road Initiative) meant to increase regional connectivity and serve as an alternative to strait of Malacca. It is asserting territorial claims in South China Sea, modernizing military and strengthening ties with Russia [13]. In terms of technology, semiconductors which are often referred to as chips are important components of modern technology with unique capabilities to manage electronic, thermal and optical signals. These properties are fundamental across a wide range of electronic devices ranging from everyday technology like cell phone and computers to sophisticated military systems. The global supply chain with reference to semi-conductors is fragile and is

dominated by key players such as Taiwan, US and China. In 2019 the chip war began when Trump administration began its efforts to disrupt China's technological progress through targeted sanctions and diplomatic leveraging. Another step was taken when Semi-Conductor manufacturing international cooperation of China along with several other Chinese companies were put on the entity list. This designation prohibited the sale of key products to these companies and citizens unless granted a federal license. Biden administration intensified the Chip War driven by the goal to keep China one step behind by employing and overwhelming number of sanctions. A stringent export control was placed on electronic design automation that are the tools necessary for chip design. Restrictions were imposed on export on advanced chip. The Biden administration even persuaded its allies like Netherlands and Japan to align with its restrictive measures. According to Colombian Political review China lags an estimated three years behind the US in terms of global semi-conductor production and five years behind Taiwan [14]. The emergence of deep seek with all these sanctions embodies the paradox of export controls that they can be successful but can still fail to achieve the ultimate strategic goal as was mentioned in Diplomat.

In terms of Russia, the memories of the cold war, containing communism makes the rivalry historical and ideological rooted. In the contemporary era, it stands on the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The Russia-China nexus threatens the United States interest even more. United States in the Russia-Ukraine conflict has sided with Ukraine along with its European allies and provided Ukraine with aid and arms to counter Ukraine. According to the factsheet of bureau of Political-Military Affairs with the title US security cooperation with Ukraine, United states has provided Ukraine to date 66.9 billion dollars in military assistance since Russia launched its full scale invasion of Ukraine on February 2022 [15]. The emergency Presidential Drawdown authority has been used on 55 occasions since August 2021 to provide military assistance to Ukraine totaling approximately 31.7 billion dollars from department of defense stockpiles. Advance technology in terms of air defense and fire capability has been provided to Ukraine.

In terms of Iran, the challenge is regarding Iran's latent ability to acquire nuclear weapon. Trump's withdrawal from JCPOA during his first tenure and Biden's failed attempt to negotiate with Iran regarding the new nuclear deal and with United States possible re-entrance into the previous agreement only if Iran returned to strict compliance with its Terms. However, now the situation was close to nuclear deal when Israel decided to attack Iran and later the involvement of United States and its attack on Iran's important nuclear facilities has again brought the deal and negotiation to square one.

#### **4.1.3. Priorities of the strategy and decisive decade**

Priorities of the strategy as outlined in NDS2022 are to defend the homeland, deter strategic attacks, deter aggression, ensure our future military advantage, we will build a resilient Joint Force and defense ecosystem. This Statement is a testament that Artificial Intelligence will be integrated in Defense infrastructure to strengthen it. In terms of decisive decade, it is as the former President Biden calls it a ten-year window for leadership to tackle our era's defining challenges. In this decade all the forces will be combined and used to the maximum effect and Artificial Intelligence will be one such element that will help United States to achieve its strategic goals effectively and efficiently. Priorities of the state has been mentioned four times and decisive decade has been mentioned once.

#### **4.1.4. Artificial Intelligence, gray zone and allies**

Artificial Intelligence is an emerging technology that has started shaping the defense strategies. It is a necessary tool to advance in future warfare. Its importance has been mentioned in the NDS 2022 in the following words New applications of artificial intelligence, quantum science, autonomy, biotechnology, and space technologies have the potential not just to change kinetic conflict, but also to disrupt day-to-day U.S. supply chain and logistics operations. Artificial Intelligence can be beneficial in the gray zone conflicts [16]. The word Artificial Intelligence and emerging technology has been used 19 times in the National Defense strategy. Together with the cooperation of its allies United States aims to build an infrastructure of Artificial intelligence that will act as a potential response to any future threats in terms of advanced technology. The word allies have been used four times in the Strategy. The word gray zone has been used three times as mentioned in the strategy that competitors increasingly engage in. In terms of nuclear forces, the strategy mentions that PRC and Russia are also working to augment their growing nuclear forces with a broader set of kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities, including cyber, space, information, and advanced conventional strike. Though greater detail on how AI would be incorporated into the National Defense infrastructure can be observed through the department of defense data analytics AI Adoptive strategy 2023.

## 5. Data Analytics and AI adoptive strategy 2023

In the key outcomes of the AI adoptive strategy, it is mentioned that the department's investment in data, analytics and AI will address key operational problems identified in the 2022 NDS, fill validated gaps to enhance the war fighting capabilities of Joint Force and strengthen the enterprise foundation required to sustain enduring advantages. Furthermore, fielding data, analytics and AI capabilities across this continuum from the boardroom to the battlefield recognizes the war fighting decision advantage is enabled by hundreds and thousands of decisions made by personnel and program offices at great distances from the frontline. This will strengthen the decision advantage for the department's warfighting and business operations is key to maintaining a resilient future force that can address a broader array of operational problems dynamically campaign and deter and prevail in conflict if necessary [17]. According to the AI adoptive strategy decision advantage is a competitive condition that is characterized by battlespace awareness and understanding, adaptive force planning and application, fast precise and resilient kill chains, resilient sustainment support and efficient enterprise business operations. Seven themes have been identified in the data analytics and AI adoptive strategy namely operational/decision advantage, Strategic Guidance in terms of AI, AI hierarchy of needs, AI governance, national and international AI ecosystem, AI workforce and Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office. The following table depicts the themes and frequency of words identified using the Taguette software.

Table 2. Demonstrating the themes and their frequency in Data Analytics and AI adoptive strategy 2023

| Themes   | Description  | Frequency of words |
|--|--|--------------------|
| Operational/ Decision Advantage                  | The latest advancements in data, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies enable leaders to make better decisions faster, from the boardroom to the battlefield  | 10                 |
| Strategic guidance in terms of AI                | This guidance includes the DoD AI strategy (2018), the DoD Digital modernization strategy (2019), the DoD Data strategy (2020), the DoD Enterprise DevSecOps strategy guide (2021), the DoD software modernization strategy (2022), the Trusted AI and autonomy critical technology roadmap (2022), and the DoD zero trust strategy (2022) | 1                  |
| AI hierarchy of needs                            | Quality data as foundation, Insightful analytics and metrics and at the top of the pyramid is responsible AI, the Department's dynamic approach to the design, development, deployment, and use of AI capabilities in accordance with the DoD AI ethical principles while delivering better, faster insights and improved mission outcomes | 1                  |
| AI governance                                    | The Department's approach to integrated data, analytics, and AI governance will account for the scale of the organization, its distributed authority structure, and high degrees of variance in data maturity among components.  | 4                  |
| National and international AI ecosystem          | The Department will advance progress toward a robust national and international ecosystem that facilitates improved intergovernmental, academic, industry, and international collaboration on data, analytics, and AI technology   | 4                  |
| AI workforce                                     | Qualified and well trained people will be hired to meet the challenges that lies ahead in terms of AI.   | 4                  |
| Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office | The office established for implementation purpose  | 1                  |

### **5.1. Operational/ Decision advantage**

This word has been mentioned ten times in the strategy. The latest advancements in data, analytics, and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies enable leaders to make better decisions faster, from the boardroom to the battlefield as is mentioned in the AI strategy. Therefore, accelerating the adoption of these technologies (AI in this context) presents an unprecedented opportunity to equip leaders at all levels of the Department with the data they need, and harness the full potential of the decision-making power of our people.

### **5.2. Strategic guidance in terms of AI**

The AI adoptive strategy 2023 has its foundations in the DOD AI Strategy 2018 and DOD digital modernization strategy 2019, DOD data strategy 2020, DoD Enterprise DevSecOps Strategy Guide (2021), the DoD Software Modernization Strategy (2022), the Trusted AI and Autonomy Critical Technology Roadmap (2022), and the DoD Zero Trust Strategy (2022) [18]. AI adoptive strategy 2023 is strategically aligned as it is not the first document of inclusion of AI into the Strategic realm. Though, this time it is explicit and penetrates the Defense Strategy and Infrastructure. The word strategic guidance has been used once in the strategy to outline the roots of AI into the strategic realm.

### **5.3. AI hierarchy of needs**

It has also been used once in the strategy. It is an important theme as it laid the needs of AI. Quality Data as foundation, Insightful analytics and metrics and at the top of the pyramid is Responsible AI, the Department's dynamic approach to the design, development, deployment, and use of AI capabilities in accordance with the DoD AI Ethical Principles while delivering better, faster insights and improved mission outcomes. Department of defense created a pyramid to outline the requirements of AI for it to function effectively.

### **5.4. AI governance**

The Department's approach to integrated data, analytics, and AI governance will account for the scale of the organization, its distributed authority structure, and high degrees of variance in data maturity among Components. Consensus and Collaboration is critical to mitigating known and emergent policy barriers and aligning technical interfaces to hasten responsible adoption. It has been used four times in the strategy highlighting its importance and dire need for inclusion in the AI infrastructure. The Department will advance progress toward a robust national and international ecosystem that facilitates improved intergovernmental, academic, industry, and international collaboration on data, analytics, and AI technology. There will be competitive AI workforce and Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office for implementation. The term AI Workforce and National and international ecosystem has been used four times and Chief digital and Artificial Intelligence Office three times.

## **6. Results**

National Defense Strategy 2022's core principle was integrated deterrence where all the forces will be combined, and the allies will be taken on board. One of the emerging technology or a part of defense force that is to be integrated is AI and that was mentioned in the Data Analytics and Adoptive AI strategy 2023 "it will answer the operational problems that was identified in the 2022 National Defense strategy". Themes of Integrated Deterrence, Artificial Intelligence in NDS 2022 and AI governance, Workforce, AI guiding operational/decision making needs in data analytics and AI adoptive Strategy 2023 indicated that these strategies are integrating AI into USA's Defense System. Frequency of words Artificial intelligence and emerging technology 19 times in NDS 2022 and the operational/decision advantage word being used 10 times in AI adoptive Strategy 2023 was an indicator with respect to content analysis that AI will answer the operational needs of defense. Frequency of words and theme identification helped draw these findings. In short, AI will be catalyst in terms of boosting the defensive/offensive performance of United States of America and in enhancing its decision making capabilities.

## **7. Discussion**

The results of the research are the projection of what will be the future scenario with regards to Artificial Intelligence [19]. AI will be used for decision making purpose and that is one scenario that should be dealt with care and caution. There are rarely binding laws to dictate how AI should be incorporated with regards to defense of a state. This is enough to raise alarms at the national and the international level as the matters related to decision making in defense should be in the hands of individuals and not algorithm. The study encourages

further research in this area and legislation at the national and at the international level to deal with this situation with care, caution and sensitivity. The purpose is not to discourage the use of AI but to encourage the right incorporation of it in areas where life, liberty and fraternity can be at stake.

## 8. Conclusions

Artificial Intelligence is a technology having impact in almost all sectors of life. In terms of defense it has started reshaping the strategies that will determine the nature of future warfare. While the ethics of its use, inclusion in warfare and the impact on human being positive or negative is still under debate, yet the technology managed to seep through and enter the defense system. For now, it has started reshaping the National Defense strategy of the United States of America and that was evident in NDS 2022 followed by Data analytics and AI Adoptive strategy 2023. Though, this strategy was in the Biden administration. The New Strategy NDS is currently underway, the memorandum of which states that it will be released entailing the framework of America First as directed by the current President Trump mentioning the words times of great danger but these times of danger will be dealt with peace through strength as the United states of America work on the principal of realpolitik and offensive realism. It that will change the future course of war as this is the first time a technology has been invented that can impact the strategic decision making by eliminating the human limitation of cognition and data selection resulting in a symbiotic relationship between machine and mind. Application of Real Politick on such technology can be proved to be fatal so it is either the time to hold back the AI technologies or reign it with ethics that does not result in a technological catastrophe.

### Declaration of competing interest

The author declare that she had no known financial and non-financial competing interest in any material discussed in the paper.

### Funding information

No funding was received from any financial organization to conduct this research.

### Acknowledgement

A special thanks to Professor Dr Zafar Nawaz Jaspal, Dean of Social Sciences from Quaid I Azam University Islamabad for guidance with regards to this research.

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