



WhitePaper 2: Real-Time Decision Advantage for Human Operators

Part of the The Part of the Series: The Argument for Embedded Logic at the Edge vs Centralised Large AI in Modern and Future - May 2025

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Executive Summary

In modern warfare, decisions must be made at the speed of the threat. Whether by a junior commander in an urban firefight, a drone operator scanning an adaptive enemy formation, or a dismounted infantry unit navigating disinformation-laced terrain—the tempo of tactical decision-making has accelerated beyond what traditional command structures, or centralised AI systems, can support.

This paper argues that embedded AI logic at the tactical edge—designed not to replace human decision-making, but to enhance it—is essential to restoring tempo, trust, and tactical advantage in complex operating environments.

By contrast, centralised large AI models, often heralded as revolutionary, are too slow, too opaque, and too distant from the fight. Their architectural dependence on cloud infrastructure and high-bandwidth data exchange makes them poorly suited to real-time decision support in contested, degraded, or communications-denied environments.

The Core Argument

AI should not be an oracle. It should be an assistant.

Real-time AI must sit with the operator, not above them—delivering clarity, not command; augmentation, not automation.

Key Takeaways



Speed + judgment wins fights

Embedded AI enables split-second interpretation and action, aligned with mission context.



Centralised AI breaks the trust loop

Delays, disconnection, or unclear outputs make human operators more hesitant, not more effective.



Ambient, real-time AI empowers small teams

Small teams can act decisively without sacrificing control.



Cognitive overload is a growing threat

Human decision-makers need relevant, adaptive support—not raw data.

What This Paper Provides

- A strategic framework for integrating real-time AI into tactical decision cycles.
- Operational examples from recent conflicts, where embedded logic enhanced or enabled faster, more accurate action.
- A doctrinal challenge to the "autonomy-first" mindset—and a clear alternative: human-led, AI-enhanced decision warfare.

Wars are still won by people. But people can only win if they can decide.

Next in the Series



Chapter 5: The Speed of Thought
Why Real-Time Matters in Modern Warfare



Chapter 6: Man + Machine
Decision Superiority Without Autonomy



Chapter 7: Cognitive Overload and the Return of Tactical Judgment



Chapter 8: AI as a Field Advisor
Enabling Smart Decisions in Small Units



Conclusion & Call to Action