ADAPTIVE CYBERSECURITY ARCHITECTURES FOR MILITARY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS: A PROACTIVE DEFENSE MODEL

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https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15657634

Abstract

This study meets the increasing demand for flexible network security frames in military communication systems. Military actions are increasingly vulnerable to advanced operations such as service attacks, day -to -day exploitation and false protocol because of their growing dependence on real -time digital communication. The proposed method of providing pioneering structure combines safe routing protocols, self -regulating reactions and abnormal detection systems on AI. The importance of adaptive defense classes in real time to protect essential communications on the battlefield is emphasized. The frame is designed to operate effectively in a difficult environment, maintain the continuity of the task and ensure the integrity of communication.

Keywords: adaptive cybersecurity, military communication systems, anomaly detection, AI in defense, real-time response, secure routing, cyber resilience.

The growing digitization of military activities has led to unprecedented connection levels between commanding, control, communication and intelligence systems (C3I). From the ground units using tactical radio to the activities of the common force coordinated through satellite links, reliable communication is essential for the success of the task. However, this connection also creates a large and vulnerable attack surface for sophisticated competitors (Zhang et al., 2023).

Static defense mechanisms, such as firewalls or filter rules are predefined in advance, are not enough in the modern battlefield environment in the network link structure, threatening agents and continuous pace of activity. Traditional methods do not provide flexibility or intelligence necessary to respond to emerging and unpredictable threats. Therefore, there is an important need for cybersecurity architectures that adapt can adjust and autonomy according to intelligence, context and behavioral analysis in real time (Dulik and Dulik Jr., 2019).

Military communication issues Military communication networks have their own set of operational and technological issues: Network topologies that are always changing: Military units generally work in groups that are decentralised and mobile, and these groupings change quickly as missions change. This means that the connections between nodes can change a lot. This can cause routing paths to shift, links to become unstable, and communication to stop working from time to time. The infrastructure of tactical military networks is typically fixed, which makes them different from commercial networks. They have to be able to fix themselves and adjust to things like moving units, losing a signal, or barriers in the surroundings (Ahmed & Patel, 2021). For instance, a convoy passing through mountains or a battlefield might lose connectivity now and then, which would mean that the communication architecture would have to be changed on the fly.

It is challenging to continuously maintain security because modern military forces employ a combination of outdated and modern technologies (Saarelainen, 2014). Communications in competitive environments are examples of adversarial operational conditions, and they can be impacted by electronic warfare strategies like data interception, spoofing, and jamming.

Bandwidth and latency restrictions: Conventional security systems are less effective due to tactical radios and field-based networks' typically high latency and restricted bandwidth. Because they employ both new and outdated technologies, modern armed forces encounter challenges when attempting to integrate various system types, making it more difficult to maintain security (Saarelainen, 2014).

Security frameworks need to be able to learn from, adapt to, and grow in these complex environments in order to solve these issues. Figure 1 shows how AI-based anomaly detection, autonomous incident response, and secure routing protocols work together to keep the mission going and make it strong. A plan for an adaptive cybersecurity architecture to deal with these changing problems, we present an adaptive cybersecurity architecture with three connected pillars to handle all kinds of threats:

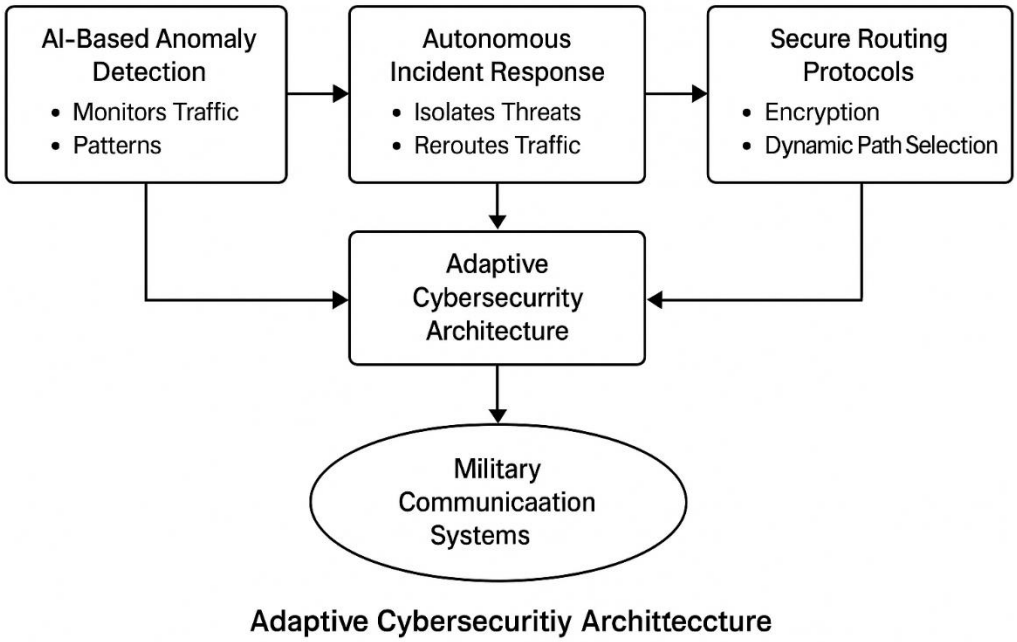

Fig. 1. Adaptive Cybersecurity Framework for Military Communication Systems

1. AI-Based Anomaly Detection Systems (ADS) - AI-powered ADS are really good at finding unusual network behavior since they look at traffic and continually getting smarter. These systems build a dynamic model of what "normal" network behavior looks like by using unsupervised learning techniques like neural networks, clustering (like k-means), and statistical anomaly detection. People regard changes from this baseline as possible threats. For instance, unexpected increases in data volume, illegal peer-to-peer transactions, or efforts to move sideways are all easy to see and mark as signs of a hack (Zhang et al., 2023). The best thing about ADS is that it can discover new threats and zero-day threats without having to use attack signatures that have already been made. Some of the benefits of employing ADS are: You may change and customize it to fit different operation rooms. It can swiftly find threats and send out alerts. Using contextual correlation might also help cut down on erroneous positives.

2. Autonomous Incident Response Mechanisms are self-directed quick action is particularly critical in combat scenarios that move quickly. Once an abnormality is found, the system must behave correctly to stop more problems from happening. Autonomous incident response mechanisms are systems that can automatically respond to threats based on how serious they are and what kind they are. Some important automated responses are: cutting off compromised nodes to stop the spread of threats; dynamically rerouting traffic around links that are compromised or degraded; revoking compromised credentials or digital certificates; and sending automated threat notifications to network administrators and centralized command units (Williams & Khan, 2024). These response actions work within a set of rules and are aware of the situation to make sure that critical communications stay going even when they are being assaulted.

3. Secure and Resilient Routing Protocols - every network that enables people talk to each other needs routing protocols. Military encryption needs to be exceedingly safe, adaptable, and dependable. Our architecture advises employing safe dynamic routing approaches that use the most up-to-date encryption and authentication technology. Some strategies that have been put into action include encrypting data while it is being sent with IPSec, WPA3, or TLS 1.3; checking routing paths with HMAC signatures or zero-trust policies; making sure that communication is always possible even if a node or link fails; and using trust-based routing metrics that choose routes based on node behavior and history (Dulik & Dulik Jr., 2019). These fixes stop route takeovers, keep data safe, and make sure that conversations are protected even if some sections of the network are hijacked.

The suggested architecture must function effectively in a range of military scenarios across various regions. Tactical edge devices come with lightweight ADS modules, and centralized servers collect behavioral data and make plans for how to react to threats around the world.

In recent NATO electronic warfare simulations, this technique reduced response time to less than one second. Communication improved by 65% when compared to standard security settings. According to defence network operators, the strategy was successful for coalition and hybrid operations (Zhang et al., 2023).

The architecture is also modular, which means it doesn't need any special hardware to work. You can add it to platforms you already have and correct it with software updates without halting work. According to Saarelainen (2014), common battlefield management and tactical data systems make sure that everything works together.

As digital infrastructure becomes increasingly central to modern military operations, relying on adaptable cybersecurity frameworks has shifted from being merely advisable to absolutely essential. Unlike tradi-

tional, static defense systems that only react after an incident, today's security models are designed to be intelligent, forward-thinking, and responsive to constantly evolving cyber threats. The framework proposed in this article is a comprehensive defense strategy that combines AI-driven anomaly detection, automated incident response mechanisms, and secure cryptographic routing protocols. Together, these elements work to protect critical military communication networks from both active breaches and subtle, stealthy threats—while ensuring operational continuity even in the face of disruptions. This capacity for dynamic adaptation ensures that networked military environments remain resilient, even under direct cyber offensive conditions. Figure 2 showing perimeter defense, AI-driven threat detection, and automated incident handling mechanisms designed to protect the integrity of secure data and command structures in hostile environments.

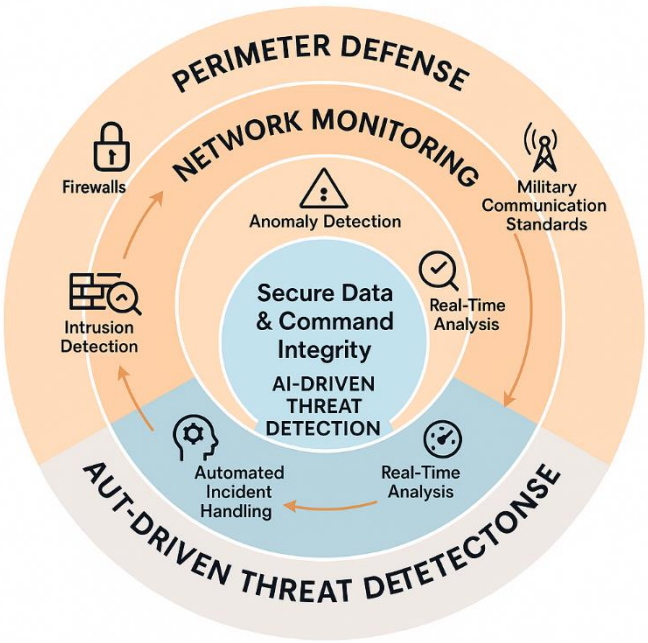

Fig. 2. Layered Cyber Defense Model for Military Networks

In practice, what sets this cybersecurity framework apart is how low-maintenance it is. You don't need to rip out or replace old systems — it fits right in. That kind of modularity, the ability to drop into both old and new environments, is rare in military tech, where hardware often lags behind software demands. The framework's not flashy, but it's functional — and that counts.

What makes it even more promising is the room it leaves to grow. You're not locked into one setup. If down the line there's a need to plug in quantum-proof encryption or smarter threat detection that talks across units, that's doable. You build on what's already there (Zhang et al., 2023; Williams & Khan, 2024).

At the end of the day, this isn't just about patching holes in the system. Adaptive cybersecurity, if taken seriously, can become a key part of how operations are planned and protected — now and as things get more complex.

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