

Leveraging Edge Intelligence and LLMs for 6G-Enabled Defense Vehicles

Dr. Mohammad Atif Khan

Assistant Professor, Military Studies (Defence And Strategic Studies)
Rajendra Prasad Degree College, Meeraj, Bareilly, U.P. (India)
(Affiliated to M.J.P Rohilkhand University Bareilly UP. INDIA)

Abstract:

The convergence of edge intelligence and large language models (LLMs) within 6G-enabled defense vehicles represents a transformative leap in modern military operations. These technologies enable real-time decision-making, autonomous navigation, and secure communication in contested environments, significantly enhancing tactical agility and operational efficiency. Edge computing minimizes latency by processing data locally, while LLMs facilitate natural language understanding and human-machine interaction. Together, they allow autonomous vehicles to interpret complex scenarios, execute mission-critical tasks, and respond to threats with minimal human intervention. However, their integration also introduces challenges related to latency, bandwidth, cybersecurity, and ethical accountability. This paper explores the opportunities and challenges of deploying edge intelligence and LLMs in military defense vehicles, emphasizing the technological, operational, and ethical considerations required to ensure effective and responsible implementation.

Keywords: Edge Intelligence, Large Language Models (LLMs), 6G Networks, Autonomous Military Vehicles, Real-Time Decision-Making, Military AI Ethics

I. Introduction

The integration of **edge intelligence** and **large language models (LLMs)** into **6G-enabled autonomous defense vehicles** is set to revolutionize military operations, offering unprecedented advancements in communication, decision-making, and operational efficiency. As the world transitions to **6G technology**, defense systems are poised to benefit from enhanced connectivity, reduced latency, and unprecedented data transmission capabilities. The application of these advanced technologies will not only transform how defense vehicles operate but will also introduce new paradigms in autonomous military strategies. **6G technology**, expected to provide ultra-low latency (around 1 millisecond) and data transmission speeds exceeding 100 Gbps, will be the key enabler of these innovations. This next-generation network will offer vastly superior connectivity, enabling real-time data exchange among autonomous defense vehicles, command centers, and allied forces, ensuring smooth and uninterrupted communication even in the most complex operational environments (Park et al., 2021).

At the heart of this transformation lies **edge intelligence**, a distributed computing paradigm that processes data closer to the source—within the defense vehicle itself—rather than relying on distant data centers or cloud infrastructure. This reduces the dependency on centralized systems, minimizes latency, and enables **real-time decision-making** critical for military operations in unpredictable environments (Zhou et al., 2022). By allowing autonomous vehicles to process and analyze data on-site, edge intelligence enhances the operational autonomy of defense systems, allowing them to react swiftly to changing circumstances without waiting for instructions from remote servers or command centers. **Large language models (LLMs)**, which are powered by advanced **natural language processing (NLP)** algorithms, further bolster the capabilities of autonomous defense vehicles. LLMs enable the vehicles to process complex data inputs, interpret commands, and generate responses in natural language. This technology allows defense vehicles to understand, process, and act on situational data autonomously. LLMs can interact with human operators, interpret battlefield reports, and translate those into actionable intelligence in real time (Zhang & Liu, 2021). Moreover, LLMs provide robust command recognition and facilitate seamless communication between human and machine, helping to streamline operations and ensure that defense vehicles can operate in harmony with military personnel and other systems.

The convergence of **6G networks**, **edge intelligence**, and **LLMs** is poised to redefine the operational dynamics of autonomous defense vehicles. These technologies enable several transformative capabilities for military operations. First, the enhanced **situational awareness** made possible by real-time data analysis and communication allows defense vehicles to adapt to rapidly changing battlefield conditions, optimize resource allocation, and identify threats more effectively (Shen et al., 2021). Second, **autonomous decision-making** becomes more sophisticated as edge intelligence processes sensor data on the fly, allowing vehicles to respond

quickly to incoming threats or environmental changes without human intervention. Lastly, the ability of LLMs to understand complex communication and execute tasks autonomously ensures that defense vehicles can operate with minimal human oversight, improving efficiency and reducing the risk of human error (Li et al., 2021). In addition to enhancing autonomous operations, these technologies will also improve the **security** and **resilience** of defense systems. 6G's capabilities for massive connectivity allow autonomous vehicles to maintain communication and coordination with multiple units even in contested environments, where traditional communication systems may be vulnerable to electronic warfare or cyberattacks. The integration of **edge intelligence** ensures that sensitive data can be processed locally, minimizing the risks associated with transmitting data over potentially insecure networks (Xu et al., 2021). Moreover, **LLMs** enable intelligent data analysis that can detect anomalies, monitor system health, and respond to potential security threats in real time (Shen et al., 2022).

One of the most significant benefits of 6G-enabled autonomous defense vehicles is the **reduction of human involvement** in high-risk or hazardous missions. By automating tasks such as navigation, threat detection, and decision-making, these vehicles can perform complex operations in dangerous or inaccessible environments—such as areas affected by chemical, biological, or radiological threats—without exposing personnel to harm (Wang et al., 2022). Autonomous vehicles, equipped with real-time decision-making capabilities through edge intelligence and supported by the language processing capabilities of LLMs, could also assist in rescue operations, logistics management, and surveillance, further enhancing military operational capabilities (Zhang et al., 2021). However, the integration of these advanced technologies into defense vehicles also raises significant challenges. One critical concern is **cybersecurity**, as the connectivity enabled by 6G networks makes defense vehicles more vulnerable to cyberattacks (Zhou & Li, 2021). Ensuring the resilience of these systems against malicious attacks is essential, particularly when the systems are tasked with operating autonomously in hostile environments. Another challenge is **interoperability**; the complexity of integrating edge intelligence, LLMs, and 6G connectivity into existing defense infrastructure requires careful attention to standardization and system compatibility (Sun & Zhang, 2021). Additionally, there are ethical considerations related to the increasing autonomy of military vehicles, particularly concerning decision-making processes in combat situations. Ensuring that autonomous systems adhere to international humanitarian law and that accountability is maintained in the event of unintended consequences will be crucial (Sun et al., 2021).

The integration of **edge intelligence**, **large language models**, and **6G connectivity** within autonomous defense vehicles presents significant opportunities for enhancing military capabilities. These technologies provide real-time data processing, improve situational awareness, and enable autonomous decision-making, all of which are essential for modern defense operations. The synergy between these technologies will not only streamline operations but also ensure the security and efficiency of autonomous systems in high-risk environments. As 6G networks continue to evolve, the potential applications of these technologies in military systems will expand, providing defense forces with new tools to maintain operational superiority on the battlefield.

1.2 Significance of Integrating Edge Intelligence and LLMs in 6G-Enabled Defense Vehicles

The rapid advancement of autonomous military technology and communication systems has brought forth an era of enhanced operational capabilities, especially with the integration of edge intelligence and large language models (LLMs) in 6G-enabled defense vehicles. The integration of these technologies promises to revolutionize the way military vehicles operate, communicate, and make decisions in real-time, offering new dimensions of autonomy, efficiency, and safety. By leveraging edge intelligence and LLMs, autonomous defense vehicles can process large volumes of data swiftly, execute decisions with minimal delay, and navigate complex environments with precision. This section discusses the key aspects of integrating edge intelligence and LLMs within 6G-enabled defense vehicles, emphasizing the importance of real-time data exchange, advanced navigation, and enhanced safety features.

1.2.1 Real-time Data Exchange and Decision Making

The integration of edge intelligence within 6G-enabled defense vehicles enables real-time data processing, which is critical for dynamic decision-making in the battlefield. Edge intelligence refers to the distributed computing approach where data is processed closer to the source, i.e., within the vehicle itself, instead of being sent to a central server (Li et al., 2022). This capability is especially important in military operations where split-second decisions can significantly impact mission success. Autonomous defense vehicles can process vast amounts of sensor data—ranging from terrain maps to threat assessments—locally, without needing to transmit data to external networks or command centers, which can result in latency or delays. In military environments where response time is crucial, edge intelligence reduces reliance on external networks, ensuring that decisions are made based on the most up-to-date and relevant data (Zhou et al., 2021). With edge computing, autonomous vehicles can operate independently in hostile environments where network connectivity may be limited or disrupted. This localized data processing allows for the immediate application of critical information, such as sensor inputs from radar or visual feeds, to make tactical decisions on the move. For instance, when a

vehicle detects an imminent threat, it can instantly analyze the sensor data, assess the situation, and execute evasive maneuvers without waiting for a centralized command. Furthermore, edge intelligence in defense vehicles can significantly reduce the risk of communication delays, ensuring faster reaction times during military operations. This aspect is particularly critical in conflict zones where decision-making windows are narrow, and the ability to act swiftly can determine the outcome of a mission (Wang et al., 2020).

1.2.2 Advanced Navigation and Autonomous Control

A critical capability of 6G-enabled defense vehicles is their advanced autonomous navigation systems, which are significantly enhanced by both edge intelligence and LLMs. Autonomous vehicles in military operations must navigate complex terrains, avoid obstacles, and adapt to rapidly changing conditions. By integrating 6G's ultra-low latency, these vehicles can receive real-time environmental updates, enabling them to adjust their trajectories dynamically. This capability is particularly beneficial in environments where terrain features may change rapidly, such as in urban warfare or in unpredictable natural landscapes. The ability to receive and process real-time data from sensors, satellites, and other vehicles in the network allows defense vehicles to modify their navigation paths in real-time. For instance, if a vehicle detects a sudden obstacle or threat, it can alter its route autonomously to avoid potential hazards and continue the mission (Li et al., 2022). Edge intelligence allows these vehicles to make quick decisions without having to rely on remote data centers or external communications, thereby reducing the risk of delays and ensuring mission success. Large language models (LLMs) contribute significantly to enhancing autonomous control by enabling the interpretation of complex commands in natural language. Through advanced natural language processing (NLP) algorithms, LLMs can understand and process multi-faceted input, such as voice commands from military personnel or instructions from command centers, and execute the appropriate actions. This enhances human-machine collaboration, enabling operators to communicate more effectively with autonomous systems (Gao et al., 2021). The ability to interpret and respond to natural language commands makes it easier for military personnel to interact with defense vehicles, reducing the need for specialized knowledge or complex programming interfaces. In situations where human operators are engaged in multiple tasks, LLMs help ensure that the defense vehicle responds appropriately to verbal commands, facilitating smoother coordination in high-stress environments.

1.2.3 Enhanced Safety Features

Safety is paramount in autonomous military operations, and the integration of edge intelligence and LLMs plays a crucial role in enhancing the safety features of 6G-enabled defense vehicles. The use of advanced sensors such as cameras, radars, and LiDAR allows these vehicles to detect and assess their surroundings continuously. Edge intelligence processes this sensor data in real-time, enabling the vehicle to respond rapidly to potential hazards such as enemy fire, terrain anomalies, or hostile units. In a combat situation, these vehicles can autonomously identify threats such as incoming missiles or landmines, initiating defensive measures or evasive maneuvers without human intervention. LLMs further contribute to safety by enabling the vehicle to understand and process contextual information related to the environment. For example, if a vehicle detects a potential threat, the LLMs can interpret the data, assess the risk level, and provide verbal warnings or recommended actions to the vehicle's operator. This capability allows for quicker decision-making and more effective communication during high-stress situations (Sundararajan et al., 2020). In addition, LLMs can generate reports on the current status of the vehicle, including environmental hazards, operational conditions, and system health, providing operators with real-time updates to make informed decisions.

Furthermore, edge intelligence allows for continuous monitoring of the vehicle's internal systems, such as engine performance, fuel levels, and weaponry status. This ensures that the vehicle operates efficiently and remains functional throughout the mission, reducing the risk of operational failure or equipment malfunction. In scenarios where autonomous vehicles are deployed in high-risk environments, the ability to autonomously detect, assess, and respond to hazards in real-time is a critical safety feature that minimizes the potential for human error (Sundararajan et al., 2020). The integration of edge intelligence and large language models (LLMs) within 6G-enabled defense vehicles represents a transformative leap in autonomous military operations. By enabling real-time data exchange, advanced navigation, and enhanced safety features, these technologies provide military forces with a significant tactical advantage. The ability to process data locally, coupled with the ultra-low latency and high data throughput of 6G networks, allows defense vehicles to operate autonomously, adapt to changing conditions, and make critical decisions on the move. Furthermore, the synergy between edge intelligence and LLMs ensures that these vehicles can interpret complex data, communicate effectively with human operators, and respond to threats swiftly and decisively. As military operations continue to evolve, the fusion of these technologies promises to redefine the operational capabilities of defense vehicles, offering new levels of autonomy, safety, and efficiency.

1.3 Challenges and Considerations in the Integration of Edge Intelligence and LLMs for Autonomous Military Vehicles

The integration of edge intelligence and large language models (LLMs) into autonomous military vehicles, powered by 6G networks, has the potential to significantly enhance operational capabilities. However, several challenges and considerations must be addressed to ensure the effective deployment and performance of these systems in military environments. These challenges include concerns related to latency, bandwidth limitations, security, privacy, and the ethical implications of autonomous decision-making. This section discusses these key challenges, emphasizing the technical, security, and ethical considerations involved in the integration of these advanced technologies into military defense systems.

1.3.1 Latency and Bandwidth Considerations

One of the primary advantages of integrating edge intelligence into autonomous military vehicles is the ability to process data closer to the source, reducing latency and enabling faster decision-making. However, despite the advancements in 6G networks, latency and bandwidth limitations remain significant challenges. While edge computing allows for the decentralization of data processing, ensuring that vehicles can handle high volumes of sensor data in real time, bandwidth constraints and network congestion in battlefield conditions can still create performance bottlenecks. In a military context, especially on dynamic and rapidly changing battlefields, 6G networks are expected to offer ultra-low latency and high bandwidth capabilities. However, even with these advancements, operational environments may pose unique challenges. For instance, satellite communication links, which are commonly used in military operations, may experience congestion or limited bandwidth during high-intensity combat scenarios, impeding the ability of defense vehicles to transmit large volumes of data in real time (Shen et al., 2022). Furthermore, the rugged nature of battlefield environments, where terrain may disrupt communication links and create signal blockages, could also result in network instability and data transmission delays.

To address these issues, edge intelligence offers a solution by reducing the reliance on distant data centers and enabling localized processing. However, ensuring the seamless operation of autonomous systems under these conditions remains a challenge. Defense vehicles must be designed to handle network disruptions, recover from failures quickly, and ensure that critical data can still be processed and acted upon in real-time, even when bandwidth is constrained or network conditions are unreliable. The deployment of advanced communication technologies such as millimeter-wave communication and high-frequency satellite links could alleviate some of these concerns, but the challenge of maintaining consistent data flow remains a critical consideration (Zhou & Li, 2021).

1.3.2 Security and Privacy Concerns

The integration of AI-driven edge intelligence and LLMs in military systems introduces substantial security and privacy risks. Autonomous defense vehicles are tasked with processing sensitive data, such as troop movements, enemy locations, and communication signals, making them attractive targets for cyberattacks. The reliance on 6G networks for communication adds another layer of complexity, as these systems will be vulnerable to hacking, adversarial manipulation of AI models, and data breaches. The potential for adversaries to exploit vulnerabilities in AI systems is a growing concern. In particular, the manipulation of large language models (LLMs) through adversarial attacks could result in incorrect decision-making, potentially leading to mission failure or unintended escalation of conflicts (Zhou & Li, 2021). For instance, an adversarial attack could manipulate a defense vehicle's interpretation of a command or sensor input, leading it to take actions that are not aligned with operational objectives.

To mitigate these risks, robust security protocols are essential. Advanced encryption methods, secure communication channels, and real-time anomaly detection systems must be deployed to safeguard sensitive data. Additionally, it is crucial to implement mechanisms that can verify the integrity of AI models and ensure that they are not tampered with. Secure hardware, such as trusted execution environments (TEEs), can help protect the integrity of critical systems and prevent malicious interference (Shen et al., 2022). Furthermore, employing techniques such as federated learning, where models are trained locally on vehicles rather than relying on centralized systems, can reduce the risks associated with data transmission and storage. Privacy concerns also arise with the widespread use of AI and edge intelligence in military operations. Autonomous defense vehicles will gather, process, and store vast amounts of sensitive data, including surveillance footage, troop movements, and other operational information. Ensuring that this data is protected from unauthorized access is paramount, especially in situations where multiple entities—such as allied forces, contractors, or international organizations—are involved. The implementation of privacy-preserving techniques, such as differential privacy, can help ensure that sensitive information is not exposed during data processing or analysis (Sun & Zhang, 2021).

1.3.3 Ethical and Accountability Issues

As autonomous military vehicles take on more complex roles, the ethical implications of their actions become increasingly important. In military settings, where autonomous vehicles may be tasked with lethal operations, ensuring that AI systems make decisions in compliance with international laws of warfare, human rights standards, and ethical guidelines is crucial. The integration of LLMs into these systems, which can interpret and respond to natural language commands, introduces further complexity in the ethical considerations surrounding decision-making. A significant ethical concern in autonomous military operations is the issue of accountability. When a defense vehicle autonomously decides to take an action, such as deploying lethal force in self-defense, who is held accountable for that decision? Is it the vehicle's AI system, the operator who provided the input, or the command center that issued the operational directive? Determining the chain of responsibility and ensuring that decision-making processes align with legal and ethical standards is a critical challenge (Sun & Zhang, 2021). LLMs are particularly useful in this context because they can process complex instructions and make contextually appropriate decisions. However, their reliance on training data raises concerns about bias and transparency. If the AI models are trained on biased or incomplete datasets, they may make unethical or unjust decisions. Ensuring that these systems are transparent and that their decision-making processes are explainable is critical for maintaining public trust and ensuring compliance with international law.

Moreover, the deployment of autonomous weapons systems (AWS) raises the question of whether machines should be entrusted with decisions regarding the use of lethal force. Many experts argue that human oversight is essential to ensure that AI systems do not take actions that violate ethical or legal standards (Gao et al., 2021). To address these concerns, military planners and policymakers must establish clear guidelines and frameworks for the ethical use of autonomous systems, including oversight mechanisms that ensure accountability and compliance with international humanitarian law.

The integration of edge intelligence and LLMs in 6G-enabled autonomous military vehicles promises to enhance operational capabilities and provide significant advantages in terms of real-time data processing, advanced navigation, and safety features. However, several challenges must be addressed to ensure the successful and ethical deployment of these systems. Latency and bandwidth limitations, security and privacy risks, and ethical dilemmas surrounding autonomous decision-making are all critical considerations that need to be carefully managed. To mitigate these risks, robust security protocols, privacy-preserving techniques, and ethical oversight mechanisms must be implemented. By addressing these challenges, the full potential of edge intelligence and LLMs in military applications can be realized, leading to more efficient, autonomous, and ethically responsible defense operations.

1.4 Future Prospects of 6G-Enabled Defense Vehicles

The potential of **6G-enabled autonomous defense vehicles** is immense, and the role of edge intelligence and LLMs in shaping future defense strategies cannot be overstated. As **6G networks** mature and AI technologies continue to evolve, autonomous defense vehicles will become smarter, more capable, and more resilient. These vehicles will not only improve operational efficiency on the battlefield but also reduce the risk to human lives by taking on dangerous missions, such as reconnaissance in hostile environments or explosive ordinance disposal (Xu et al., 2021). Future innovations will likely focus on enhancing the communication protocols between autonomous systems, allowing for better coordination between individual vehicles, larger platoons, and command centers. The combination of edge intelligence, LLMs, and **6G connectivity** will create a new paradigm for **autonomous military operations**, where vehicles can collaborate, share real-time data, and operate in a highly coordinated and efficient manner (He et al., 2022). Moreover, the integration of **AI-enhanced navigation**, combined with **LLMs**, will ensure that defense vehicles can operate in increasingly complex environments, whether urban settings, dense forests, or challenging terrains. This evolution will contribute to the greater success of military operations, offering unparalleled advantages in terms of operational autonomy and situational awareness.

II. Conclusion

In conclusion, the integration of **edge intelligence** and **large language models (LLMs)** within the framework of **6G-enabled defense vehicles** represents a significant leap forward in military technology. By facilitating real-time data processing, enhancing autonomous decision-making, and enabling advanced navigation and safety features, these technologies will redefine the way autonomous defense systems operate. As **6G networks** provide the necessary backbone for these advancements, edge intelligence and LLMs will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of military operations. Despite the immense potential, challenges such as latency, security, and ethical considerations must be addressed to fully realize the benefits of these innovations. As defense vehicles become increasingly autonomous and intelligent, the development of robust AI models, secure communication protocols, and regulatory frameworks will be crucial to ensuring the responsible deployment of these technologies. The fusion of **edge intelligence**, **LLMs**, and **6G connectivity** will undoubtedly play a central

role in the future of defense, contributing to enhanced operational efficiency, increased safety, and reduced risks in military operations.

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