

Summary of A Common Language for Responsible AI

Policymakers, engineers, program managers, and operators need the bedrock of a common set of terms to instantiate responsible AI for the Department of Defense. Rather than create a DOD-specific set of terms, however, the DOD could benefit by adopting the key characteristics defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology in its draft AI Risk Management Framework.

Since NIST’s terms largely align with its five ethical principles of responsible AI, the DOD could adopt or otherwise adapt to NIST’s taxonomy with only two exceptions that are truly unique to the DOD’s context and mission: “responsible” and “traceable.”

Aligning DOD terms and definitions more closely with NIST poses several advantages:

- reducing misunderstandings between the DOD, government, and industry;
- detailing singularly focused and precise terms to guide developers, testers, policymakers, and operators in their efforts to develop, acquire, and operationalize responsible AI; and,
- joining NIST and the rest of the U.S. government in projecting a consistent set of terms and definitions as responsible AI is discussed and debated internationally.

<p>Keep DOD-unique terms and definitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Responsible ● Traceable
<p>Adapt DOD terms and definitions to NIST’s terms and definitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reliable → Reliability ● Governable → Safe ● Equitable → Managing Bias
<p>Adopt terms and definitions from NIST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accuracy ● Robustness ● Transparency ● Explainability ● Interpretability ● Privacy-Enhanced

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