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Anduril's Defense Stack Needs Unified Cognitive Governance

by [Nick Clark](#) | Published March 27, 2026 | [PDF](#)

Anduril builds complete defense autonomous systems spanning sensor fusion, mission planning, and engagement coordination. The Lattice platform integrates these capabilities across domains. But the individual functions operate as connected subsystems rather than as a unified cognitive architecture. Defense autonomy at its most demanding, systems making consequential decisions with limited human oversight, requires the complete cognition tier: confidence that revokes engagement authority, integrity that tracks normative consistency with rules of engagement, forecasting that maintains contained speculative plans, and capability awareness that defines the operational envelope. These primitives must interact structurally, not just communicate through messages.

What unified cognitive governance provides for defense

In defense applications, the interaction between cognitive primitives is where governance lives. Confidence that drops because the sensor environment has degraded simultaneously triggers forecasting to mature alternative mission plans and capability awareness to contract the engagement envelope. Integrity detects that recent engagement decisions have been drifting from the rules of engagement baseline and modulates confidence accordingly. These cascades must be structural, happening through coupled state variables, not through subsystem notifications that may not propagate fast enough for operational tempo.

The human operator, when available, sees the unified cognitive state: which primitives are healthy, which are degraded, and how the system has adjusted its behavior in response. This is more informative than subsystem-level status reports because it shows the agent's cognitive posture as a whole.

Domain parameterization for defense

Defense parameterization is distinct. Confidence thresholds for engagement actions are set at levels defined by rules of engagement. Integrity tracking prioritizes compliance with international humanitarian law. Forecasting containment boundaries are calibrated for the time horizons of military decisions. Capability envelopes include ammunition state, sensor availability, and communication reliability. The cognitive architecture is universal. The parameters make it appropriate for defense.

The structural requirement

Anduril's subsystem integration through Lattice is capable. The structural gap is the unified cognitive layer that makes autonomous defense systems into governed cognitive agents. Domain parameterization provides the complete architecture calibrated for military operational constraints, producing defense autonomy that is structurally governed rather than functionally adequate.

[Applications All 21 steps →](#)

Same primitives. Different domains. One architecture.

Primary Technical Disclosure

[○ One Architecture, Every Domain: How the Same Cognitive Primitives Parameterize Across Autonomous Vehicles, Defense, Companion AI, and Therapeutic Agents](#)

Secondary Technical

[○ Confidence-Governed Autonomous Driving Decisions](#) [○ Quorum-Based Engagement Authorization for Defense Systems](#) [○ Narrative Unlock Engine and Relationship Milestones for Companion AI](#) [○ Attachment Challenge Module: Testing Relational Health](#) [○ Skill-Gated Relational Readiness for Social Platforms](#) [○ Fleet-Level Affective State Aggregation for Traffic Management](#) [○ Therapeutic Relationship Integrity for AI-Assisted Therapy](#) [○ Physical Capability Envelopes for Embodied Robotics](#) [○ Curriculum-Gated Adaptive Learning Platforms](#) [○ Continuity-Based Facility Access Control](#) [○ Confidence-Governed Financial Trading Systems](#) [○ Rights-Grade Content Generation With Provenance Tracking](#) [○ EU AI Act Structural Conformity Through Architecture](#)

Applications (General)

[○ Autonomous Vehicle Full-Stack Governance From Sensor to Motor](#) [○ Defense Engagement Authorization Through Multi-Level Confidence](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Healthcare](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Financial Services](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Education](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Smart Cities](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Manufacturing](#) [○ Full-Stack Cognition Architecture for Agriculture](#)

Applications (Specific)

[○ Waymo's Stack Lacks Unified Cognitive Governance](#) [● Anduril's Defense Stack Needs Unified Cognitive Governance](#) [○ Epic Systems Needs Cognitive Governance for Clinical AI](#) [○ Bloomberg Terminal's AI Needs Unified Cognitive Governance](#) [○ Tesla Robotaxi Optimizes Driving, Not Cognitive Architecture](#) [○ Lockheed Martin Automates Targeting, Not Engagement Governance](#) [○ Siemens Healthineers Automates Diagnosis Without Cognitive Governance](#) [○ Palantir AIP Deploys LLMs Without Cognitive Architecture](#) [○ C3 AI Provides Enterprise AI Applications Without Cognitive Coherence](#) [○ UiPath Automates Tasks Without Cognitive Governance](#)

[Applications overview →](#)

AQ

deterministic
autonomy

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