

## **ANALYSIS OF NATO'S CYBER DEFENSE POLICY POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS**

Today, I will be doing an analysis of the political implications of NATO'S cyber defense policy. I want to explore how this new defense policy will affect international relations within NATO and most importantly between NATO and the Russian federation as NATO was and still is an alliance designed specifically to defend and fight against the russians. With this in mind it's likely that this new policy will cause relations between NATO countries and Russia to be further strained and it is important to explore to see just how much this will raise tensions between the two. I also will be exploring how policy makers addressed and justified this policy and the implications it may present as well as determining why they came to the conclusion that this new policy was needed for further security of their member states. Lastly, I will also be going over the ramifications of these decisions and how they may further strain relations between rivals of NATO. Now let us start this analysis with how policy makers have addressed this policy and its implications.

To begin with, policy makers have addressed this new policy change to their individual citizens as a way to further strengthen their security against hostile nations and as a way to protect their citizens against the rising increase of cybercrime. The implications however start when you look into how the policy is going about lowering the threat of these cyber threats and one of the big ones is the policy aim to incorporate advanced AI systems to monitor and find cyber threats before they can turn into cyber attacks(Cybersecurity, 2024). This of course has made some people worried by the ethics of this because if the AI is wrong it can lead to false identification of cybercrime or cyber threats leading to a possible increase in false arrests, which may also cause public distress. The use of AI in this manner also calls into question whether or not people will retain their right to privacy while using the internet. Now that you understand

how this policy has been presented and the problems it may present, let's look into why policy makers have chosen to go in this route. Now let's continue to why policy makers came to these conclusions.

Now while the use of AI and the problems to come with it, may seem to be good reasons as to not incorporate it into NATO'S cybercrime defense strategies the thing is that in today's world cybercrime is rapidly advancing and becoming more widespread and dangerous as our world becomes increasingly dependent on the internet of things. The use of AI systems will help combat this, allowing us to find threats faster than a human could and help combat advisory use of AI systems which will ultimately help give NATO the edge it needs in the race for cyber dominance(Nato, n.d.). Now that you understand why policy makers have come to these conclusions let's go into how this will affect relations between NATO and russia.

Now while the intentions of this policy are good and its main focus is defense against cyber attacks this policy will still ultimately cause problems with relations between NATO and Russia which are already strained. These strains in relations are mainly caused because of Russia feeling as though it is being threatened with NATO's build up of cyber technologies, which they feel is aimed at them(*NATO Summit–Russian Reaction*, 2024). This ultimately is leading to Russia becoming more confrontational with NATO in the cyber domain which also leads to NATO wanting to continue to advance and grow its cyber capabilities to protect itself and its citizens from adversaries attacks. Now that you understand how this will affect relations between the alliance and Russia, let's look into the ramification of these decisions.

Ramifications of these decisions may come in multiple different forms one way being something we touched on above being how this will lead to greater confrontations between NATO states and russia which may be the biggest consequence of this new cyber defense policy

as Russia as it has threatened in the past may increase its cyber attack and espionage on NATO states (Jones, 2025). Another way this policy may create problems is by further encouraging the continued advancement of offensive cyber capabilities among advisory states such as Russia, China, and Iran.

In conclusion, politicians have addressed NATO's 2024 cyber defense policy as a way to better protect member states and their citizens from the growing threat of cyber attacks and cybercrime. At first glance this seems fine but when you look deeper into what the policy plans on doing it brings up some major implications about how NATO wants to enhance its cyber defense. The idea of advanced AI being integrated into NATO's cyber defense technologies isn't something that many people are okay with due to the potential problems that AI could cause such as false positives which then would lead to people being wrongly accused of criminal activity by law enforcement. NATO on the other hand believes that even with these potential problems that it is crucial for their defense to include such technologies into their cyber defense policy due to the rapid development of offensive cyber technologies and due to advisory nations developing their own AI systems, which could threaten NATO cyber security. This policy and the developments NATO hopes to make with it also has the possibility of leading to heightened tension between NATO and Russia as the latter sees NATO's build up of defense cyber technologies as a threat. Lastly this increase in tensions could lead to Russia and other advisory states such as China and Iran to increase their cyber attacks and espionage against NATO countries and could fuel their efforts to create increasingly advanced offensive cyber capabilities to use against the alliance.

## SOURCES

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