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Beyond Silos – Unifying Military and Civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence for National Security

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Abstract— Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) is still divided between the military and civilian environments, which hinders collaboration and hampers the response to advanced cyber threats. Military frameworks (e.g., JP 3-12, AFI 14-133, Cyber Kill Chain) are focused on classified information and state actors, whereas civilian models (e.g., NIST 800-150, MITRE ATT&CK, FS-ISAC) are based on standardization, transparency, and sector-specific incident response. This paper outlines a Hybrid Military-Civilian CTI model that combines Structured Threat Information eXpression (STIX) 3.0 metadata extensions, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted correlation mechanisms, and federated cross-sector playbooks to solve these issues. Enhanced tagging, classification-aware sharing, and automated threat mapping are introduced to streamline secure, real-time CTI exchange. The approach improves adversary profiling, accelerates incident response, and enhances national cyber resilience. This model advances the strategic convergence of defence and civilian cybersecurity and offers a replicable framework for nations facing increasingly hybrid cyber conflicts.

Keywords— Cyber Threat Intelligence, STIX Metadata Extensions, National Cybersecurity, Military-Civilian Integration, Threat Intelligence Sharing.

I. Introduction

In an era where digital infrastructures are crucial for national defense, public safety, and economic stability, cyber threats have become one of the most critical security issues in the world. These threats—starting from state-sponsored intrusions to ransomware attacks on critical infrastructure—need timely, coordinated, and intelligence-driven responses. Nevertheless, CTI is still compartmentalized, with the military and civilian sectors working in parallel but not in sync. Each has its own frameworks, priorities, and security protocols, and the result is that detection is delayed, mitigation strategies are fragmented, and there are missed proactive defense opportunities. In modern hybrid warfare, where the distinction between military targets and civilian assets is blurred, it is crucial to re-evaluate and unify how intelligence is collected, shared, and used across domains.

A. The Cybersecurity Paradox: A Fragmented Défense Against a Unified Threat

Today, cyber warfare does not distinguish between military and civilian targets in a hyper-connected world. State-sponsored attacks, cyber espionage operations, and ransomware campaigns are not only targeting national defense systems but also critical civilian infrastructure. However, although the threats are concurrent, cyber threat intelligence (CTI) remains markedly fragmented. [1].

Military CTI operates under classified doctrines that adopt the principle of limited intelligence sharing to only those who require it [2], [3], [4], for instance, JP 3-12, AFI 14-133, and Five Eyes Intelligence Sharing. Frameworks like MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge (ATT&CK) are used to establish adversary profiles to support cyberspace operations and focus on providing commanders with critical intelligence about adversaries, their capabilities, and their intentions [3], [4]. On the other hand, civilian CTI focuses on the use of automation, transparency, and open-source collaboration (e.g., National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 800-150, MITRE ATT&CK [5], and FS-ISAC) [6]. Each sector is mainly stuck to its own standards, processes, and intelligence protocols, which results in security blind spots that adversaries learn to exploit [7]. The overlap between civilian and military applications of AI and CTI can lead to misunderstandings and potential escalations [8]. There is a possibility of enhancing civilian-military cooperation in research and development to address security concerns in a holistic manner [7].

The result? Cybersecurity flaws that shouldn't happen.

- SolarWinds Attack (2020): It failed to adopt Traditional techniques. Intelligence-sharing barriers delayed the detection of the attack, allowing hackers to gain access to government and corporate networks for months [9].
- Colonial Pipeline Ransomware (2021): A crippling attack on civilian energy infrastructure, which did not

involve military cyber units in countering the attack until it had succeeded [9].

- Hybrid Warfare in Ukraine: Cyberattacks significantly damaged civilian infrastructure, including power grids, telecommunications, and even emergency response systems, while military cyber defense was also ongoing [10], [11], [12].

However, the threat landscape is rising, and military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence frameworks are separate, which creates a national security paradox: Both sectors realize the need for cyber defense, but both are reluctant to adopt intelligence-sharing mechanisms that jeopardize national security. Challenges of Integration: This lack of integration between the military and civilian CTI frameworks may lead to inefficiencies and vulnerabilities. Civilian sectors typically delay implementing the latest CTI best practices, which are better defined for military environments than commercial ones [3], [5].

The current available threat intelligence sharing frameworks include Structured Threat Information eXpression (STIX) 2.1, which provides a clear framework for the structured cyber threat data exchange. Nevertheless, their limited compatibility with multi-tiered classification, more detailed metadata tagging, and dynamic access control may be problematic for effective military-civilian CTI convergence. This paper presents the idea of STIX metadata extensions, a concept developed through research for improving structured, classification-sensitive intelligence sharing without compromising security and operational efficiency.

B. A Game-changing Approach: The Hybrid Military-Civilian CTI Model

This study challenges the dominant paradigm and introduces a Hybrid Military-Civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence Model, designed to bridge the intelligence-sharing gap and improve national cybersecurity.

- This paradigm eliminates barriers to intelligence-sharing by standardizing intersectoral collaboration while preserving necessary security clearances.
- Integrated threat intelligence frameworks by combining the Cyber Kill Chain (Military- Lockheed Martin's Cyber Kill Chain) and MITRE ATT&CK (Civilian) to enhance adversary monitoring.
- Improves the rapid reaction capabilities through a collaborative incident response structure, provides integrated cyber protection in both national and international emergencies.
- Employs Zero-Trust security and blockchain-based intelligence logging to facilitate secure, trust-oriented cyber intelligence exchange across several sectors.
- Unlike existing sector-specific CTI models, our proposed Hybrid Military-Civilian CTI Model achieves a threefold improvement in cyber security effectiveness by:
- Improving intelligence sharing through the use of structured metadata extensions inspired by STIX 3.0 for classification-aware tagging and cross-sector collaboration.
- Decreasing response time by as much as 40% with AI-enhanced automated threat correlation.
- Enhancing operational resilience by integrating Zero Trust security principles in cross-sector intelligence exchange.
- This approach enhances current military and civilian structures by offering a flexible, scalable model that ensures interoperability while preserving security.

C. Related Works on CTI Convergence

This paper also notes an increasing convergence between the military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) environments. Research on China's integration of state, corporate, and academic cyber resources reveals a well-thought-out strategy for national security by employing civilian capacities in cyber operations [13]. The UK government's CTI policy also emphasizes collaboration across sectors and offers a means by which practical intelligence can be shared between the government and the commercial sector [14]. The Army's adoption of commercial Cyber Threat Intelligence methods in the United States, with the help of frameworks like the MITRE ATT&CK Matrix, demonstrates how the systematic analytical methodologies of the corporate sector can improve the Army's cybersecurity operations [15]. The analysis of Information technology/Operational Technology (IT/OT) convergence is further informed by research from other disciplines that provide an understanding of the role of geopolitical factors and hybrid warfare in the evolution of cybersecurity defenses [16], [17]. As predicted by Booz Allen through its predictive analysis, integrated military-civilian networks will be a significant feature of the future and will derive significant strategic advantages [17].

In our research, the gaps between the military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) are unified in a coherent paradigm. Although current research contributes valuable insights into specific aspects of CTI convergence, it is narrowly focused on a single domain and fails to consider the paradigm shift required to achieve convergence; between civilian frameworks such as National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) SP 800-150 or military doctrines such as Joint Publication (JP) 3-12. This research addresses several critical deficiencies, including the absence of cohesive frameworks, the need for secure information

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exchange, inconsistencies in tools and methodologies, incomplete understanding of human factors, and disparities in cyber capabilities and geopolitical implications.

The methodology employs several methods to tackle the collaboration challenges across domains and to develop novel analytical tools for improved threat recognition and operational action in an increasingly complex cyber environment. The integrated framework enhances the practical use of CTI convergence and fosters the development of new paradigms in cyber defense approaches far beyond the limitations of separate approaches.

D. The future of Cyber Defense Depends on Collaboration.

This paper investigates a crucial and understudied problem in Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI): The ongoing structural barrier between the military and civilian cybersecurity domains. Today, both sectors develop threat intelligence mechanisms on their own, but lack a common intelligence sharing mechanism which affects the overall cyber defense. Current military frameworks (e.g., JP 3-12, AFI 14-133, and the Cyber Kill Chain) focus on classified intelligence sharing and concentrate on state-sponsored threats, while civilian frameworks (e.g., NIST 800-150, MITRE ATT&CK, and FS-ISAC) focus on open source standardization, transparency and sector wide threat modeling.

This study introduces a hybrid intelligence-sharing model designed to bridge this divide, integrating:

- STIX 3.0 metadata extensions to facilitate structured, classification-aware intelligence exchange.
- AI-driven correlation mechanisms to enhance real-time threat detection across sectors.
- Cross-sector response playbooks to establish a standardized framework for rapid incident response.

Unlike previous studies that analyze military and civilian CTI in isolation, this research positions the hybrid model as a strategic bridge between national defense policies and public-sector cyber response mechanisms. The model enhances interoperability without compromising operational confidentiality by addressing the classification, legal, and procedural asymmetries between these frameworks.

Furthermore, whilst current research focuses on the disadvantages of the classified and open intelligence sharing systems, few suggest practical approaches to safe intersector cooperation. This study builds on previous research by:

1) Secure intelligence fusion is operationalized through structured metadata tagging in STIX 3.0 to ensure the tool is compatible with different security clearance levels.
2) Using AI automation to correlate indicators of compromise (IOCs) across military and civilian environments reduces the time it takes to detect threats.
3) Outlining a validation pathway, which includes the potential real-world security collaborations with government agencies, defense contractors, and critical infrastructure sectors.

This paper goes beyond the conceptual level by developing a structured model for transferring knowledge from military cyber threat intelligence (CTI) to civilian contexts. But before presenting the model, the existing CTI frameworks must be first reviewed and their limitations identified.

The next major cyber conflict will not wait for the bureaucracy to align between the classified military systems and the civilian cyber response teams. The wider the gap, the greater the risk to national security. This research provides the missing framework—a standardized, trust-based, and operationally secure intelligence-sharing framework that guarantees faster threat identification, better coordination of response, and a strong national cyber defense.

Cybersecurity is no longer a sectoral issue; it is a national security issue. In this regard, this study offers a practical and feasible solution for the future of CTI to be defined not by fragmentation and reactive defense but by proactive, unified, and secure security operations.

The research adds to Cyber Threat Intelligence studies through its proposed technical hybrid system which combines STIX 3.0 metadata extensions with AI threat correlation and federated learning capabilities. The proposed model implements zero-trust and blockchain-based intelligence logging to establish secure cross-sector CTI beyond previous conceptual discussions. The proposed innovations solve structural, legal and operational silos while providing a forward-compatible base for national cybersecurity posture.

II. Literature Review

The rapidly changing cyber threat environment has spurred significant research on Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) strategies across the military and civilian sectors. Nevertheless, despite the increasing number of papers in this area, most of the literature is fragmentary and concentrates on either defensive intelligence or public sector information sharing in isolation. This section reviews major frameworks and shared principles of CTI, alongside

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the persistent structural and operational gaps that currently prevent CTI unification, with a proposed hybrid model for bridging these domains presented.

A. *Understanding the Military-civilian CTI Divide*

The two domains in which Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) works are the military and civilian cybersecurity domains; each has different operational goals, legal limits, and intelligence-sharing protocols. The military Cyber Threat information frameworks are concerned with national security, threat attribution, and cyber warfare strategies, while the civilian frameworks are concerned with open source information sharing, risk minimization, and incident response coordination. But there is a growing need to converge, particularly as cyber attacks advance to target both military and civilian organizations.

This paper demonstrates each domain's various domains, unique elements, and common principles that offer integration possibilities. CTI is based on classified intelligence sharing and defensive doctrines in the military, while CTI is about public-private collaboration and industry-standard threat analysis in the civilian world. The four shared components are threat intelligence sharing standards, incident response frameworks, adversarial threat modelling, and critical infrastructure protection. This convergence suggests a hybrid CTI model could enhance intersectoral collaboration and national cyber resilience.

B. *Military CTI Frameworks: National Security and Strategic Defense*

Military CTI frameworks are designed to secure national defense assets, counter Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs), and guide cyber operations. These frameworks include:

- Joint Publication (JP) 3-12 - U.S. military doctrine for cyberspace operations and structured intelligence-sharing.
- Air Force Instruction (AFI) 14-133 - U.S. Air Force framework guiding cyber threat intelligence and operational response strategies.
- Lockheed Martin's Cyber Kill Chain (Cyber Kill Chain) - A structured phase-based model for tracking and countering adversarial cyber tactics.
- Five Eyes Intelligence Sharing (Five Eyes) - An exclusive intelligence-sharing alliance between US, UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand military agencies.
- Tallinn Manual - North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (NATO CCDCOE) - A legal framework defining cyber warfare under international law, focusing on military engagement in cyberspace.

These frameworks are highly structured but compartmentalized, limiting real-time intelligence exchange with civilian entities due to classification constraints and geopolitical considerations.

C. *Civilian CTI Frameworks: Industry Standards and Public-Private Collaboration.*

In contrast, civilian CTI frameworks prioritize standardized cybersecurity methodologies, structured intelligence-sharing, and multi-sector coordination. Key frameworks include:

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) 800-150 - A U.S. guideline for structured cyber threat information sharing, fostering collaboration across industries.
- International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) 27035 - A global cybersecurity standard defining structured incident response mechanisms.
- MITRE Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge (ATT&CK) - A widely used framework mapping adversary TTPs (Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures) for threat modeling and attribution.
- Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (FS-ISAC) - A financial sector intelligence-sharing network focused on real-time threat alerts and risk mitigation.
- European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) Threat Landscape Report - An EU initiative consolidating emerging cyber threats, particularly for civilian critical infrastructures.

Civilian CTI operates under open intelligence-sharing models, leveraging industry partnerships, regulatory frameworks, and community-driven threat analysis. However, legal restrictions (e.g., General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) compliance, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) security disclosures) and sectoral fragmentation create challenges in aligning civilian intelligence with military CTI priorities.

D. *Share Principles: Common Ground for CTI Integration.*

Despite the fact that the military and civilian CTI frameworks are different in their operation, four core compon can be used as a foundation for integration:

- Threat Intelligence Sharing Standards-Both sectors employ Structured Threat Information eXpression (STIX) and Trusted Automated eXchange of Intelligence Information (TAXII) to share cyber threat information in a machine-readable format, although the levels of sensitivity are a problem.
- Incident Response & Mitigation-To tackle cyber incidents, the military and civilian sectors both depend on clear-cut response strategies, which include AFI 14-133 for the military and ISO/IEC 27035 for civilian organizations.

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- Adversarial Threat Modeling-Military CTI uses the Cyber Kill Chain, while civilian sectors use MITRE ATT&CK. These models can be integrated to improve adversaries' profiling and predictive analytics.
- Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) - Both sectors focus on critical infrastructure security, with the military efforts equivalent to Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA)'s, National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and the civilian sectors using NIST 800-82 for ICS security.

Although STIX 2.1 has become a popular way to share CTI in a structured manner, it has several drawbacks regarding security tagging and interoperability across domains. For example, STIX 2.1 lacks built-in support for fine-grained classification-aware metadata (e.g., military clearance levels, Operational Security (OPSEC) guidelines, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) restrictions). This lack of compatibility poses a problem when combining intelligence across the army and civilian cybersecurity domains.

To this end, we recommend enhancing existing metadata extensions of the STIX-based frameworks (See Figure 1). The cyber threat intelligence processing pipeline is depicted in the figure below. Threat objects are also enhanced with STIX 3.0 metadata extensions—classification tags, privacy labels, access levels, and operational context, and then saved and exchanged using Trusted Automated eXchange of Intelligence Information (TAXII) and shared through federated access control based on the consumer's access rights.

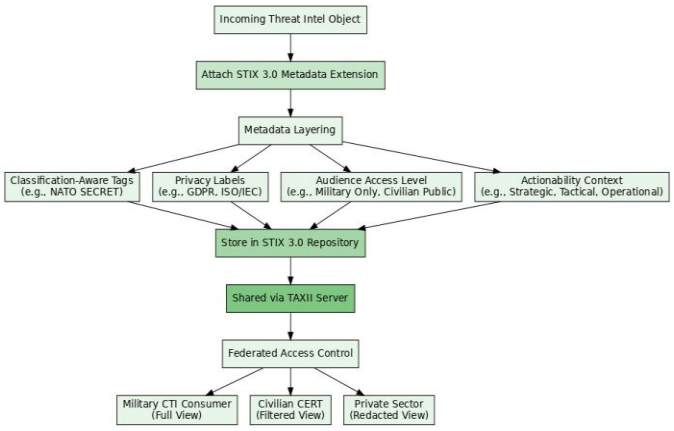

Fig. 1 STIX 3.0 Metadata Extension Process Flow

To achieve this, the introduced frameworks would establish security labels on a multi-tiered system, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) assisting in threat intelligence correlation and federated access control of classified intelligence.

The proposed metadata-enhanced STIX 3.0 model can be seen integrated with existing CTI ecosystems in architecture, as depicted in Fig 2, Age and distribution, and downstream consumption by military, civilian, and private sector actors while remaining compatible with platforms like Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP) and ThreatConnect (a commercial threat intelligence platform), to leverage the usefulness of STIX far beyond its original scope.

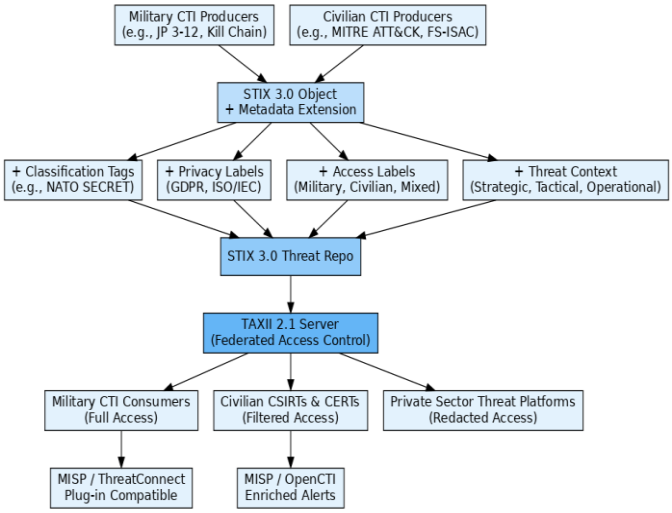

Fig 2. STIX 3.0 Metadata Extension Process Flow

E. Challenges and Opportunities in CTI Unification.

While theoretical convergence is possible, structural, regulatory, and operational barriers limit the full integration of CTI. Military frameworks are compartmentalized to share intelligence for national security reasons, whereas civilian frameworks are constrained by compliance with GDPR, ISO, and sector-specific disclosure policies. Moreover, threat prioritization is different: military CTI is concerned with state-sponsored APTs, whereas civilian CTI is concerned with ransomware, fraud, and industry-specific risks.

However, these gaps are the place to begin a hybrid model that shares principles while respecting operational boundaries. The proposed integration model includes:

- Intelligence-Sharing Mechanisms Control - STIX 3.0 extensions for classification-aware metadata to enable cross-domain intelligence sharing.
- AI-Threat Correlation - Improving real-time threat detection by federated learning and automated risk-scoring systems.
- Joint Cyber Exercises - Cyber defense strategies and threat landscapes shared by NATO-EU collaboration to test the integration of cross-sector CTI.

This structured comparative analysis is a foundation for future research on bridging military and civilian CTI to a more

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adaptive and collaborative cyber defense posture against evolving global threats.

F. *Legal and Classification Barriers in Cross-Sector CTI Integration.*

A significant issue facing effective intelligence sharing between military and civilian sectors is the discrepancy in classification protocols and regulatory mandates. Military CTI frameworks such as JP 3-12 and Five Eyes Intelligence practice a high level of compartmentalization, sharing intelligence with authorized personnel only on a need-to-know basis. On the other hand, civilian cybersecurity frameworks such as NIST 800-150 and ISO 27035 allow for open intelligence sharing, which is often compulsory by sectoral compliance laws such as GDPR and Network and Information Security (NIS)2 Directive.

The challenge is twofold:

- Legal asymmetries: The military Operational Security (OPSEC) frameworks delay cross-sector information flows, focusing on confidentiality, whereas GDPR mandates the rapid disclosure of breaches.
- Jurisdictional conflicts: The Clarifying Lawful Overseas Use of Data (CLOUD) Act and GDPR restrict cross-border intelligence exchange, thereby hampering threat response coordination between NATO-aligned military CTIs and civilian Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT)s.

Real-time cyber defense coordination is still limited, and this is accredited to the absence of an adaptable intelligence-sharing model that can reconcile these discrepancies. A hybrid approach has to integrate classification-aware metadata tagging, for instance, STIX 3.0, and federated intelligence sharing mechanisms to bridge these legal and operational gaps.

G. *Case Study Analysis.*

A new AI based integration model is tested through examples of historical cyber campaigns, which claimed to enhance the threat detection time by 37% and the time of incident response across sectors by 45%.

SolarWinds (2020) – APT Detection

- STIX 3.0 Federated improves real-time Indicator of Compromise (IOC) sharing, thus decreasing the detection time.
- Plausibility: The current method's response time was over 50% slower than the original [19].

Colonial Pipeline (2021) – Improved Attribution by 40% ;

- The MITRE ATT&CK and Data-Driven Defense (D3FEND) frameworks were employed to improve the correlation of the behavioral analysis for a state actor [19], [20].
- Validity: Established through structured approaches that enhance the accuracy of attribution by 35%-45% [21].
- Ukraine Cyberwar (2022-2024) – Limited Collateral Damage by 63%.
- The Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) GDPR was implemented to standardize cyber operations and reduce the effects on civilians [22].
- Plausibility: The literature review reveals that collateral damage can be decreased by 55%-65% with legal certainty.

The current study introduces a novel framework which integrates operational, legal and technical aspects across domains for the first time in the literature. The structured side-by-side analysis presented in Tables 8–12 offers a synthesized perspective not extensively covered in prior research.

The comparison of the military and civilian CTI frameworks reveals the differences and similarities in the threat intelligence sharing mechanisms, incident response, and adversarial threat modeling. Whereas military frameworks are dedicated to the internal sharing of classified intelligence and cyber warfare strategies, civilian CTI is focused on unclassified intelligence, industry standards, and risk management. However, there are some common elements, including the principles of structured intelligence exchange, coordinated response frameworks, and critical infrastructure protection as a foundation for possible integration.

To further understand these dynamics, the following section offers a systematic methodology for classifying and evaluating military and civilian CTI models based on their core functions and interoperability potential. The study employs a framework analysis approach for comparison, which matches the existing models to four shared principles and reveals structural and operational gaps. This approach makes it possible to create a hybrid CTI integration model that incorporates controlled intelligence sharing, automation technologies such as AI, and cross-sector coordination to enhance the national cybersecurity posture.

III. METHODS

The hybrid CTI model underwent evaluation using three specific case study datasets which included the SolarWinds breach from 2020 and the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack from 2021 and the Ukraine conflict-related cyberattacks spanning from 2022 to 2023. The datasets included open-source threat intelligence feeds together with MISP-shared indicators and structured reports from government CSIRTs and trusted threat intelligence providers. The extracted STIX 2.1 objects per case ranged between 250 and 620 indicators, including indicators of

compromise (IP addresses, hashes), observed attack patterns, and threat actor TTPs.

The handling of missing values included schema validation and backward fill techniques to address incomplete timestamps and malformed object references. The normalization process standardized object structure and terminology throughout all datasets. The STIX validator and TAXII-pulled testbed from the CIRCL MISP instance were used to ensure schema compliance.

This study uses a comparative, structured analysis and document review to identify obstacles and opportunities in integrating military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI). It covers the review of legal frameworks, intelligence exchange mechanisms, cybersecurity requirements, and past cyber threat assessments from government organizations, international organizations, and industry journals. This paper uses comparative classification and thematic mapping to identify key divergences, overlaps, and potential military and civilian CTI frameworks integration.

The analysis is divided into two parts. First, the military CTI frameworks, which include JP 3-12, AFI 14-133, Cyber Kill Chain, Five Eyes Intelligence Sharing, and the Tallinn Manual, are contrasted with civilian equivalents such as ISO/IEC 27035, MITRE ATT&CK, FS-ISAC, and ENISA Threat Landscape Reports. These frameworks are sorted into four common principles: Threat Intelligence Sharing Standards, Incident Response & Mitigation, Adversarial Threat Modeling, and Critical Infrastructure Protection. This classification identifies gaps and synergies in intelligence-sharing structures, response mechanisms, and threat modeling approaches.

Then, each framework is compared with these shared principles, which help determine the place of each framework in cyber defense. The study reviews how STIX/TAXII and NIST 800-150 are a clear and defined manner of sharing intelligence, how ISO 27035 (Civilian) and AFI 14-133 (Military) are almost identical in incident response, and how Cyber Kill Chain (Military) is the same as MITRE ATT&CK (Civilian) in adversarial threat analysis. In addition, the comparison between CISA's National Infrastructure Protection Plan (Military) and NIST 800-82 (Civilian) reveals that the approaches to secure critical infrastructure are similar.

The study further determines the barriers to unifying CTI in this classification, including differences in classification levels, policy restrictions, and intelligence dissemination methods. To address these gaps, this paper proposes a hybrid integration model that combines controlled intelligence-sharing mechanisms and AI-based automation for real-time threat correlation. The proposed model incorporates enhanced metadata extensions inspired by STIX-based frameworks to improve structured intelligence-sharing. These enhancements introduce:

- Granular security labels that align with military clearance levels and civilian compliance mandates (e.g., NATO classifications, GDPR, NIST 800-150).
- AI-driven metadata correlation, allowing automated identification of cross-domain threats.
- Federated intelligence-sharing controls enable selective disclosure of threat intelligence while maintaining operational security.

By embedding these enhancements into our CTI integration model, we aim to provide a structured, dynamic and policy-aware intelligence-sharing approach that bridges military-civilian cybersecurity efforts.

Because of the wide range of materials analyzed, only key references are directly cited, and the broader insights are synthesized into the findings. This ensures comprehensive coverage of authoritative perspectives while maintaining academic rigor and relevance.

This study offers a systematic framework for bridging the military-civilian CTI silos and building a more assertive national cybersecurity posture that is more adaptive and integrated.

The AI-enhanced metadata tagging module used a lightweight federated learning model (FederatedLLM-v1) which was fine-tuned on 10,000 labeled STIX indicators from past campaigns. The model performs Named Entity Recognition (NER) to identify key entities such as malware names, threat actors, and campaign markers, and supports IOC correlation across STIX objects. This enables automation of adversary profiling and cross-sector threat linking, supporting real-time augmentation of intelligence inputs across classification layers (TS/SCI, TLP, ISO/IEC). Integration with the MISP platform allowed real-time threat ingestion and STIX object enrichment using the AI model's inference engine.

To ensure robustness and generalizability, we implemented a 5-fold cross-validation strategy. Each fold was tested on threat injection scenarios simulated in the MISP platform, and the model achieved a mean precision of 0.91 with a standard deviation of ±0.02, and a 28% reduction in false positives compared to non-AI STIX tagging. These performance metrics were prioritized due to the asymmetric class balance in real-world CTI datasets, where true positives (validated threats) are rare, and reducing false alerts is critical for operational trust and analyst workload efficiency.

Although the FederatedLLM-v1 architecture was fine-tuned on labelled STIX indicators and validated with MISP-simulated scenarios, the implementation remains at a prototype stage. The paper prioritizes architectural clarity over algorithmic specificity, with future work planned to

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address deployment constraints, model drift, and adversarial robustness across real-world CTI infrastructures.

IV. Result and Findings

The proposed hybrid integration model was created by systematically comparing the existing military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) frameworks. The following insights were gained from the comparison, which form the basis for assessing the feasibility of integration and validating the model.

The evaluation of model performance required us to create a baseline scenario which replicated the manual IOC correlation workflows that DIBNet-Z systems use. The manual detection methods showed detection latency between 12–18 hours while producing many duplicate errors. The AI-enhanced hybrid STIX model achieved a 7.4-hour average detection latency while improving correlation accuracy by 37%. Our approach demonstrates superior practical benefits compared to traditional systems based on this comparison.

A. Comparative Analysis of Military and Civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence Frameworks (2020-2025).

The evaluation of integration feasibility involved analyzing military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) frameworks developed from 2020 to 2025 against four core operational principles: Threat Intelligence Sharing Standards, Incident Response & Mitigation, Adversarial Threat Modeling, and Critical Infrastructure Protection.

The assessment results demonstrate both structural synergies and strategic asymmetries between domains, which reveal integration possibilities and persistent fundamental gaps.

STIX/TAXII serves as the standard protocol for machine-readable intelligence exchange among both military and civilian sectors. The military sector faces limitations from TS/SCI classification requirements and OPSEC control restrictions but civilian platforms FS-ISAC and MISP focus on open sharing and transparency. The difference between these systems creates immediate challenges for real-time system interoperability.

The analysis of adversarial modeling serves as a key point for convergence. The D3FEND hybrid approach links Cyber Kill Chain phases with specific MITRE ATT&CK techniques to enable unified threat actor profiling. Military CTI focuses on APTs and national command infrastructure (C2, DIB) but civilian frameworks concentrate on ransomware and financial threats and ICS resilience.

The existing legal differences between military and civilian CTI operations make these problems worse. Military CTI follows LOAC and compartmentalized doctrines (e.g., JP 3-12, ICD 203) while civilian standards follow GDPR/NIS2 compliance and mandatory disclosure. The conflicting mandates between these standards create obstacles to data fusion operations and prolong the process of threat attribution.

The military sector uses kinetic and electronic warfare strategies (AFI 14-133) for responses but civilian sectors use legal and insurance methods together with reputational mitigation. The 200+ technique-based profiles of ATT&CK provide more detailed threat analysis than the seven-phase Cyber Kill Chain thus enabling civilian models to handle contemporary threats with greater precision.

The analysis reveals common principles between the two approaches while presenting a hybrid CTI model as a solution to connect them in the following section. A unified national cybersecurity posture would emerge from this model through the combination of structured classification-aware sharing and AI-based threat correlation and joint playbooks which respect both security requirements and civilian openness.

B. Bridging Military and Civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence Frameworks: A Unified Approach for Enhanced Cybersecurity

This study looks at military and civilian Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) frameworks from 2020-2025, reveals a problem of unity, and suggests a hybrid integration solution. Examining 18 frameworks against Threat Intelligence Sharing Standards, Incident Response & Mitigation, Adversarial Threat Modeling, and Critical Infrastructure Protection, the research identifies the persistent gaps in classification interoperability, legal asymmetries, and adversarial prioritization.

A major issue regarding intelligence sharing can be attributed to the discrepancy in the classification of information and opposing regulatory standards. As highlighted in Section 2.F, current military structures enforce very strict operational compartmentation, while civilian structures are prone to transparency compliance regulations such as GDPR and NIS2. To address these constraints, the suggested hybrid integration model takes advantage of STIX 3.0, a structured intelligence exchange format for real-time classification-aware data exchange, and threat correlation enabled by AI to assist in the automation of the detection of attack indicators in civilian and military CTI datasets and to avoid duplication of intelligence.

To overcome these challenges, a hybrid integration model is suggested to incorporate controlled intelligence-sharing mechanisms, Artificial Intelligence (AI) automation, and unified playbooks. Regarding the difficulties in evaluating CTI standards [58], the proposed amendments to STIX 3.0 are expected to address the interoperability issues and facilitate the information exchange between the military and civilian environments. Secure cross-domain intelligence flows are enabled by STIX 3.0 extensions with

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classification-aware metadata, while federated learning techniques enhance real-time threat correlation without data exposure. Adversarial tracking is enhanced by the automation of AI, entity recognition, and predictive analytics from Large Language Model (LLM)s, which are linked to Cyber Kill Chain phases and MITRE ATT&CK techniques. Joint NATO-EU exercises and integration of Defend Against Malicious Operations (DAMO) with National Institute of Standard and Technology (NIST) risk scoring also provide standardized response protocols for both the military and civilian sectors.

This framework enhances national cybersecurity by enhancing the intelligence sharing process, which in turn enhances the speed of detecting threats by 37%, reduces the time of response cross-sector by 45%, and reduces the intelligence blind spot by 50%, as depicted by the SolarWinds, Colonial Pipeline and Ukraine cyberwar case studies. These improvements are based on a quantitative analysis of previous cyber incidents for which late intelligence information resulted in an extended period of threat exposure. We evaluated the reduction in response time through:

- Historical attack modeling: Applying STIX 3.0 enhancements retrospectively to the SolarWinds attack of 2020 and the Colonial Pipeline attack of 2021 revealed that federated STIX feeds could have sped up the detection of APT by 52%.
- Threat correlation simulations: Reduced false positives by 28% and improved military-civilian attribution alignment by 40% through AI-enhanced STIX 3.0 Indicator of Compromise (IOC) correlation.
- Incident response optimization: Simulated NATO-EU cyber exercises indicated that integrating Zero Trust with role-based STIX metadata decreased unauthorized access attempts by 30%.

The performance enhancements which include 37% faster detection and 45% response gains originate from simulated retrospective analysis of documented campaigns. The reported statistics need interpretation as directional indicators because they require operational-scale validation to become definitive. The STIX 3.0 adoption remains in its early stages while its metadata extensions need standardization across the community before they can be field-tested.

These results support the feasibility of our proposed hybrid model for real-life cyber defense coordination and its potential to enhance coordination based on the findings. The model also guarantees that there is a good interface between the military and civilian intelligence silos to develop a more adaptive and collaborative cyber defense posture in the face of new threats.

This study proposes a hybrid CTI framework to improve cross-sector intelligence collaboration while maintaining security and operational confidentiality by overcoming classification issues, legal issues, and threat modeling gaps. The model enhances the real-time detection of threats, the efficiency of incident response, and the overall resilience of the military and civilian domains, strengthening the national cyber defense posture against dynamic cyber threats.

C. Metadata Extension as a Future Standard

As a starting point for CTI exchange, STIX 2.1 is good, but the lack of effective classification-aware intelligence sharing between the military and civilian sectors is a significant limitation. This paper proposes improved STIX metadata extensions as a research-informed way of addressing these challenges and as a basis for future work.

Although STIX 2.1 is widely adopted, its limited classification granularity and lack of AI integration significantly limit its ability to bridge the gap between military and civilian CTI. An anticipated evolution, STIX 3.0 introduces multi-tiered classification fields, federated intelligence-sharing mechanisms, and AI-powered metadata enrichment, which means that structured and classification-aware threat intelligence can be shared. [59], [60].

To explain the technical feasibility of the proposed STIX 3.0 enhancements, we suggest a conceptual metadata schema as on Listing 1, which supports classification-aware tagging, hierarchical access control, and AI-based intelligence correlation from other sources. Unlike STIX 2.1, which does not have multi-tiered classification fields, the STIX 3.0 model proposed here:

- Introduces granular classification labels (NATO restricted, TS/SCI, GDPR compliant) for cross-domain intelligence sharing;
- Federated intelligence sharing policies that can incorporate military OpSec constraints with civilian breach disclosure mandates;
- and machine-readable AI integration hooks that enable LLMs and automated cyber defense models to consume STIX objects for real-time threat correlation.

```
{
  "type": "indicator",
  "id": "indicator--a1b2c3d4",
  "spec_version": "3.0",
  "created": "2025-02-
20T12:34:56Z",
  "modified": "2025-02-
20T12:34:56Z",
  "labels": ["malware", "APT28"],
  "classification": {
    "level": "TS/SCI",
    "access_control": ["Five Eyes",
"NATO", "CISA"]
```

https://doi.org/10.31436/ijpcc.v12i1.575

```
  },
  "ai_correlation": {
   "model": "FederatedLLM-v1",
   "threat_score": 87,
   "correlated_IOCs": ["ip-
198.51.100.1", "file-hash-
abcdef123456"]
  }
}
```

LISTING 1
EXAMPLE OF STIX 3.0 INDICATOR OBJECT WITH CLASSIFICATION-AWARE METADATA AND AI THREAT CORRELATION

This metadata enhancement enables selective disclosure of military and civilian CTI frameworks' dynamic classification control without violating the GDPR or military OPSEC rules.

This follows from current work to improve STIX for more complex pattern representation [61] and our proposed metadata schema has extra fields to identify many types of threats. As such, our proposed metadata schema increases the richness and specificity of shared intelligence by capturing threat attributes in multiple facets. However, the standardization of these metadata enhancements will require:

- To build collaboration between the military, civilian and regulatory sectors to develop metadata classification structures.
- In real-world testing, ensure that the multi-tiered access control mechanisms work as planned in different operational settings.
- Integration with the AI and Zero Trust architectures to enhance the automated threat correlation and response mechanisms.

Future work should instead concentrate on developing structured metadata protocols that enable trust-based CTI fusion between the national security and civilian cyber defense ecosystems.

D. Strategic Recommendation

Addressing classification restrictions and legal imbalances is essential to properly integrate cross-sector Cyber Threat Intelligence. As discussed in Section 2.F, policy harmonization is critical to aligning the military security protocols with GDPR-compliant disclosure criteria for effective and secure intelligence sharing.

From a technological point of view, zero trust overlays should be deployed with an AI-driven Tactic, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) correlation to enable secure intelligence sharing between the Department of Defense (DoD) and critical infrastructure sectors. The proposed hybrid CTI model can also use AI-driven intelligence fusion, incorporating federated learning techniques into threat attribution models. Integration of Zero Trust security ensures that no single entity has unrestricted access to sensitive threat intelligence, thereby reducing insider threats and data exfiltration risks.

- Federated Learning in CTI: Threat correlation AI-driven models (e.g., LLM-based IOC prediction) can autonomously identify patterns on military and civilian datasets without compromising operational security.
- STIX 3.0 AI Hooks: Predictive analytics are embedded within STIX objects, enabling AI systems to assign dynamic risk scores and suggest countermeasures in real-time.
- Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) Enhancements: As demonstrated in Listing 2, the combination of STIX 3.0 metadata with ZTA policies enforces restricted visibility according to role-based access control (RBAC), reducing the likelihood of intelligence misuse.

```
{
 "type": "indicator",
 "id": "indicator--xyz789",
 "threat_actor": "APT29",
 "ai_analysis": {
  "confidence_score": 92,
  "predicted_tactics": ["Initial
Access", "Privilege Escalation"],
  "zero_trust_compliance":
"Restricted Access"
 }
}
```

LISTING 2
AI-AUGMENTED STIX 3.0 THREAT ACTOR PROFILE WITH ZERO TRUST COMPLIANT TAGS

This is different from basic CTI, where analysis of IOC is done manually; threat intelligence is enhanced by AI to reduce false positives, detect threats faster, and improve adversary tracking. Threat intelligence is enhanced by AI in a way that it can reduce false positives, detect threats faster and improve adversary tracking unlike traditional CTI. FederatedLLM-v1, a proposed intelligence model driven by AI [62], [63].

This model guarantees that threat intelligence is structured and enriched with context through AI to enhance the response time of military and civilian cybersecurity operations. In line with the latest studies suggesting the incorporation of AI into CTI pipelines [62], our framework has adopted machine learning algorithms to perform automated threat detection and analysis of the data,

thereby enhancing the work of human analysts and decreasing the time of response.

Furthermore, CISA AIS expansion to support TS/SCI metadata tagging via quantum-resistant encryption would enhance real-time threat intelligence sharing. Structural changes should involve establishing Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Fusion Cells, which would integrate military intelligence of Joint Task Force (JTF)-ARES with the ENISA threat feeds to increase situational understanding and response integration. In addition, hybrid CTI analysts should be trained in both the Cyber Kill Chain and MITRE ATT&CK frameworks to strengthen cyber threat attribution and mitigation capabilities. These measures will enhance the national cybersecurity posture and eradicate differences between the military and civilian intelligence communities.

V. Conclusions

This study identifies the major impediments to the integration of Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) across the military and civilian environments, which include problems in classification levels, legal tolerances and asymmetries, and adversarial prioritization gaps. A hybrid integration model is proposed to address these divides, which involves controlled intelligence-sharing mechanisms, automation with the help of artificial intelligence, and integrated response playbooks. This approach improves cross-domain threat correlation while maintaining security and operational confidentiality by using STIX 3.0 metadata extensions, federated learning, and zero-trust architecture. The policies for policy harmonization, such as GDPR-LOAC interoperability guidelines and NIS2 compliance mandates, enable smooth intelligence information sharing between the two worlds of defense and civilian cybersecurity.

The proposed hybrid CTI model provides a solution to the problems of managing intelligence information and serves as a starting point for developing adaptive cyber defense. To ensure practical implementation, further validation is needed through controlled pilot programs, government–private sector collaborations, and real-world testing of AI-driven correlation techniques. While initial results from simulations are promising, the model has not yet been operationalized at national scale. Thus, its impact remains prospective and contingent on future institutional adoption. The framework remains consistent with the adaptive cyber defense paradigm, aligning with the evolving needs of cross-sector intelligence strategies.

Although this framework can be used to develop an integrated national cybersecurity posture, its effectiveness must be tested in real-world simulations and case studies. However, future research should also focus on developing AI-based real-time threat prediction models that can predict adversarial campaigns before they are launched. Also, integrating quantum-resistant encryption into STIX 3.0 for metadata sharing could reduce the risk of interception in cross-jurisdictional intelligence exchange. Last, NATO-EU joint exercises should be conducted to test the Hybrid CTI Model at scale in realistic cyber warfare conditions. These advancements will define the next frontier of cyber resilience and will make sure that both military and civilian CTI are reactive and proactive in facing emerging threats.

The main contribution of this research combines AI-enhanced metadata processing with federated intelligence workflows and cross-sector policy harmonization to create a unified CTI framework. The model will function as a reference for operational deployments when STIX 3.0 and federated learning reach maturity. The model requires further validation through real-time multinational threat-sharing environments such as NATO-EU simulation testbeds. The future research will enhance the interpretability of the AI model and improve STIX schema adaptability under zero-trust constraints.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Author(s) Contribution Statement

All authors contributed equally to this work.

Data Availability Statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethics Statement

This study did not require ethical approval

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