**War Cloud pushes system confrontation into the cloud**

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**Replace the information systems of each department of the military and achieve high integration of multiple fields.**

Today, as the wave of intelligence accelerates, the world's military competition is becoming more intense. With the US Department of Defense awarding the $11 billion "War Cloud" project to Microsoft, the pace of the world's new military revolution is moving further towards the "cloud" end with significant intelligent features.

　　——"War cloud" is the advanced development stage of "cloud warfare". "Cloud warfare" was first proposed by the US military. It refers to sharing data between aircraft, warships, satellites, missiles and other weapon platforms and personnel through fast, secure and real-time network links, realizing information sharing in various fields such as land, sea, air, space, and electronics, giving full play to the autonomous advantages and energy-gathering advantages of various combat platforms, various combat elements, and various combat resources, and forming a cloud-based combat capability that integrates information sharing, situational awareness and platform performance. In the early days, the US military explored at the tactical level and established multiple "tactical cloud" network systems.

　　The "War Cloud" is a "Tactical Cloud" of a larger scope and higher level. This change is not only an upgrade of the concept, but also a deepening of cognition. What the "War Cloud" wants to build is a new style of warfare with intelligent characteristics supported by the "cloud" system, and its performance requirements are much higher than those of the "Tactical Cloud". The US Department of Defense announced that the project will store and process a large amount of confidential data including weapon systems, operations, intelligence and nuclear weapons, aiming to enable all military departments to share information at high speed and respond intelligently and sensitively in a cloud computing system driven by artificial intelligence, so that the US military can use large-scale cloud network systems with intelligent characteristics to quickly complete war planning and improve combat capabilities.

　　——System confrontation with intelligent characteristics enters the "cloud". Under the coverage of the "war cloud", data such as weapons and equipment, enemy situation, battlefield situation, etc. will all be included in the "cloud" system, and "cloud services" will be shared from the highest decision-making level to the front-line officers and soldiers, thus forming a system confrontation advantage based on the "cloud". First, strategic agility is enhanced. The "war cloud" can quickly form strategic judgments and war plans based on artificial intelligence, greatly enhancing the strategic agility of system confrontation. Second, tactical flexibility is enhanced. Each combat unit will obtain greater data sharing rights in the "war cloud" system, improving the flexibility and autonomy of military operations. Third, the system integration is enhanced. The "war cloud" will replace the information systems of various departments of the military, completely change the "platform"-centered operation mode, realize cross-domain coordination, high integration and natural gathering and dispersion of land, sea, air, space, power grid and core, and achieve seamless integration and full-dimensional connection in the "cloud".

　　The "war cloud" will establish an "intelligent neural network system" based on the "cloud" network, which can provide "cloud services" for all combat units, combat elements, and combat resources, so that they can highly share information in a "cloud computing" system driven by artificial intelligence, thereby pushing the system confrontation into the "cloud". The first is the information domain confrontation in the "cloud". In the "war cloud" system, information and algorithms are key strategic resources. The hostile parties will inevitably engage in information confrontation and algorithmic warfare in the "cloud", and the result will be that the intellectually strong will win. The second is the physical domain confrontation under the "cloud". While confronting the "cloud", it is also of great significance to attack and destroy physical domain targets supported by the "cloud" system. The third is the cognitive domain confrontation on the "cloud". Since the beginning of human warfare, cognitive domain confrontation has never stopped and has intensified. In the "war cloud" system, cognitive domain confrontation will be more intense.

　　——"War Cloud" is a battlefield layout aimed at great power competition. In recent years, strategic reports at all levels of the United States have clearly focused on great power competition. Against this background, the U.S. Department of Defense awarded Microsoft the "War Cloud" project, which is one of its layouts aimed at great power wars. "War Cloud" is not isolated. It, together with the "Starlink Project", 5G battlefields, unmanned swarms, human-machine hybrid forces, medium- and short-range strike forces, etc., outline the outline of future wars.

　　The US "War Cloud" project is very much aimed at great power competition. The full name of its first "War Cloud" project is the "Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure Program", and its English abbreviation is JEDI, which is the same as the Jedi Knight (JEDI) in the movie "Star Wars". The US Department of Defense made no secret of its strategic significance and clearly pointed out that the "War Cloud" is an integral part of the global infrastructure, which can provide real-time data and situation services to combat units, and help improve the US military's ability to win wars. The US Department of Defense awarded the "War Cloud" contract to Microsoft, marking the official start of the project construction. The "War Cloud" will work with other projects to further build the capability foundation of the US "Third Offset Strategy" and accelerate the evolution of war forms.

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