

Atlantic Commission

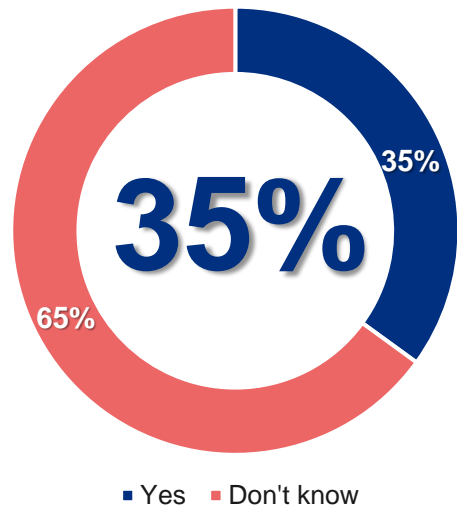
The Dutch general public about military applications of artificial intelligence (AI)



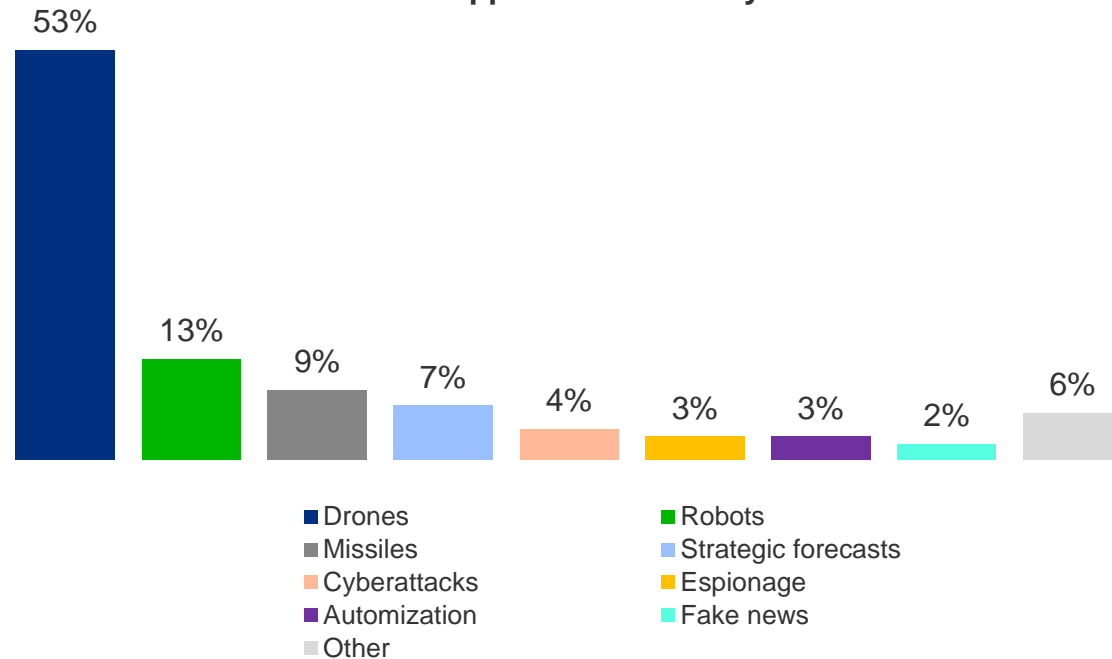
Two-thirds of Dutch people cannot spontaneously mention any military applications of AI. Dutch people who can, most often mention drones

- Military robots are mentioned by just over one in ten Dutch people (13%), (smart) missiles by just under one in ten (9%). Nonetheless, the open answers show that Dutch people who have an idea of military applications of AI view the concept very broadly and diverse. For example, fake news is mentioned as a military application of AI, as well as cyberattacks, espionage and making predictions of strategic forecasts (either based on computer models or not).

How many Dutch people have an idea of how military applications of AI could look like?



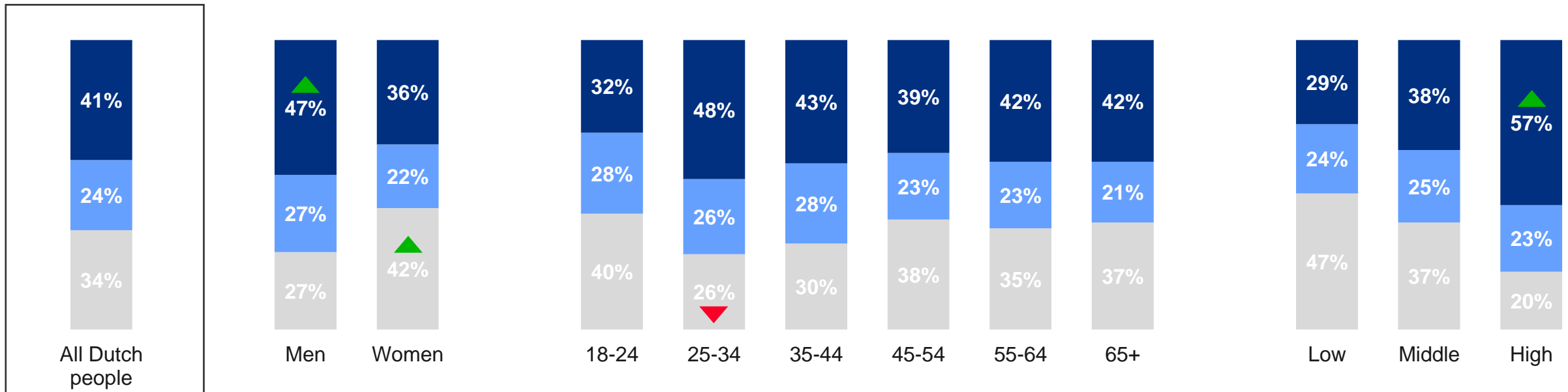
Which applications do they think of?



Open question: When you think of AI in the military domain. What type of applications do you think of? (Base: n=1.100, Dutch people who have an idea about AI in the military domain: n=383)

Four in ten Dutch people think AI can improve decision-making in the military domain. On the other hand, a quarter fear it will lead to a loss of human control

- After people are offered a short explanation on AI in the military domain during the questionnaire, several propositions are postulated. The largest group of Dutch people think AI can assist military to make better decisions in complex situations. Remarkable is that men more often choose this answer than women (47% versus 36%). Women more often take on a neutral position, 42% indicate they have no opinion on this. Looking at age, we see that young Dutch people (25-34 years old) less often indicate to have no opinion on this (26%). Looking at education level, higher educated Dutch people more often believe AI will lead to better decision-making in the military domain than other education levels.



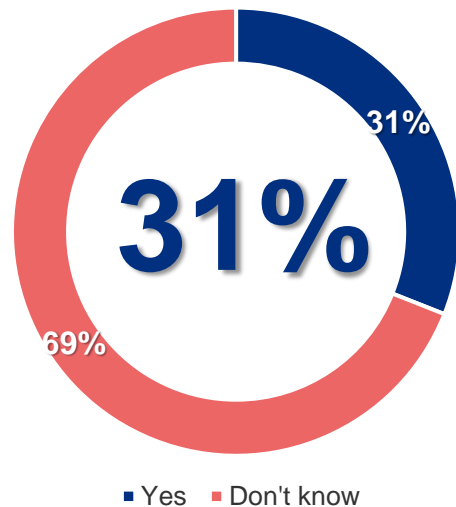
- The use of AI in the military domain will result in better decision-making by the military in complex situations.
- The use of AI in the military domain will result in the loss of human control, because the computer takes over the decision-making.
- I have no opinion on this.

Question: AI can be applied in assistance of military decision-making. You can think of data analysis or the use of command-, ISR (Information, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and weapon systems. Beneath are two propositions on the use of AI in the military domain. Which proposition is closest to your opinion? (Base: n=1.100)

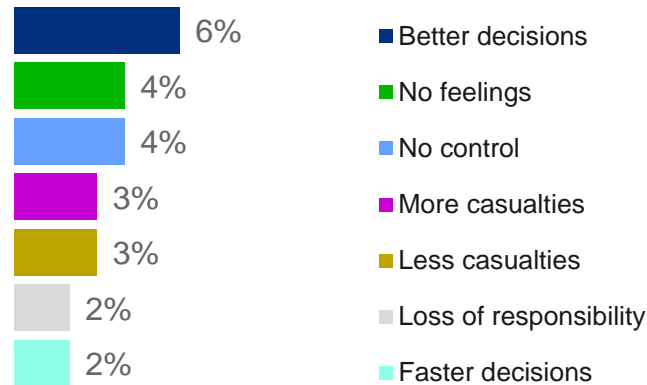
Many Dutch people cannot mention any risks or advantages of applications of AI in the military domain

- Reactions of people that have an idea are very diverse. So diverse, no summary can be formulated and it is difficult to categorise responses. Some mention the lack of feelings in AI as an advantage, others as a risk. Others think AI will lead to less casualties, others think it will lead to more casualties. Furthermore, it might lead to either better or worse decisions because the decisions are solely based on data. These examples show how complex the subject is and what the importance is of education on this subject to the Dutch general public.

How many Dutch people have an idea about the risks/advantages of AI in the military domain?



What type of risks/advantages do people think of?



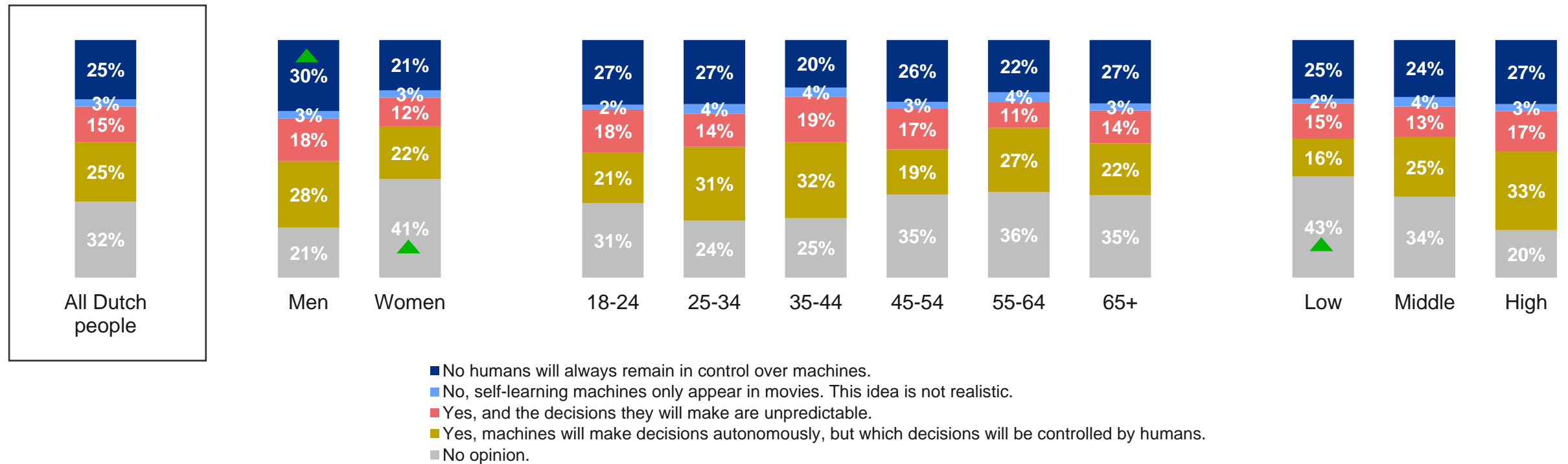
Some reactions from the open answers:

- “Risk that a human being will always let his/her feelings get involved. Advantage that AI is much smarter than humans.”
- “Risks: Blindly follow AI and lose the human factor in decision-making. Advantages: Much quicker processing of information.”
- “AI cannot replace humans entirely in complex trade-offs, but humans can be supported. Warfare should not be solely based on algorithms, resulting in human deliberations at a distance.”
- “Less risk for military.”
- “Wrong observation could lead to wrong decision with wrong outcome without humans being able to control or intervene.”
- “Wrong algorithm used by humans causing the computer/AI based on wrong information to give advice/make decisions. This could lead to catastrophic outcomes.”
- “We should not lose the human measurement. Just like driving a car with technical innovations, military decision-making should remain human work.”

Question: What do you see as the risks or advantages of the use of AI in the military domain? (Base: n=1.100, Dutch people who had an idea: n=340)

Despite the relative ignorance about AI in the military domain, most Dutch people are not worried about the developments in this area

- In total a quarter of Dutch people are not worried as they believe that humans will always remain in control over machines (25%). Another 3% does not believe that the development of self-learning machines is possible. A group of 15% does worry as they believe the decisions of AI will be unpredictable. A quarter is more deliberative: This group believes AI is able to make decisions autonomously. However, humans can remain in control of what these decisions are (25%). Looking at background-variables we see that men have more faith in the human control over machines than women. Women more often indicate they have no opinion about this (41%). Likewise, lower-educated Dutch people more often indicate to have no opinion about this.



Question: In the imagination, it is often the case that machines are becoming ever more intelligent. This image is fostered by fictional movies in which robots take over control entirely. For this reason the proposition: Are you worried about AI in the military domain? Indicate which answer is closest to your opinion. (Base: n=1.100).