

VOICES FROM INTEROP TOKYO 2026

Beyond the Fog of War: Building Trust Infrastructure for Military AI

A keynote brought the AIWS Trust Infrastructure down to the hardest test of all — the battlefield, where a single misjudged signal can cost lives or ignite a wider war.

A keynote by **General Koji Yamazaki** — former Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan Self-Defense Forces — at the Boston Global Forum – AIWS Conference, Interop Tokyo 2026.



General Koji Yamazaki delivers his keynote at the AIWS Trust Infrastructure Conference — Boston Global Forum at Interop Tokyo 2026, Makuhari Messe, Chiba, June 12, 2026.

For most of military history, commanders have fought through what strategists call the "fog of war" — the uncertainty, missing information, and confusion that cloud every battlefield. At the Boston Global Forum – AIWS Conference at Interop Tokyo 2026, General Koji Yamazaki, former Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, described how artificial intelligence is beginning to lift that fog — and why doing so safely demands a foundation of trust.

AI on the Battlefield

AI is transforming warfare, Yamazaki argued, by processing vast quantities of battlefield data in real time, giving commanders a clearer picture than ever before. Japan, the United States, and their allies are increasingly integrating AI and unmanned systems into their defense strategies. He pointed to recent conflicts as evidence: Ukraine's combination of satellites, drones, and AI-driven analytics, and Israel's AI-assisted missile-defense systems — illustrations of how rapidly machine intelligence is moving from theory into operational reality.

When the Fog Returns

But the same capabilities that sharpen a commander's vision can, if misplaced, distort it. Yamazaki was direct about the dangers. Incorrect or corrupted data can lead to catastrophic misjudgments. Automated targeting can produce humanitarian violations. And the sheer speed of AI-driven decisions can drive the unintended escalation of conflict — a chain of events moving faster than human judgment can intervene. In war, an error measured in seconds can become irreversible.

"Capability without trust is not strength. On the battlefield, it is a liability."

Trust as the Foundation

This, Yamazaki emphasized, is precisely why military AI must be built on a trust infrastructure. Three elements are non-negotiable: human oversight that keeps a person responsible for every consequential decision; secure data that cannot be poisoned or spoofed; and transparent accountability so that when machines err, responsibility is clear. The objective is not to slow innovation, but to ensure that the most powerful tools ever brought to the battlefield remain under human command.

Why It Matters

General Yamazaki's keynote grounded the theme of the Boston Global Forum – AIWS Conference in the operational realities of defense and crisis management. His warning was sober: without trust, AI could destabilize alliances and escalate conflicts faster than human judgment can respond. It is a warning that gives the AIWS Trust Infrastructure its sharpest edge — and that echoes one of the founding principles of the Tokyo Compact: *Human Command over Self-Improving Intelligence*.

The security and military dimension of trust, as Yamazaki framed it, is not a separate concern from the civilian one. It is the same principle tested under the highest stakes. Where lives and alliances hang on a signal, the lesson of Tokyo 2026 holds with particular force.

Trust must lead.
Wisdom must guide.

Boston Global Forum · AI World Society / AI Wisdom Society (AIWS) — Ideas That Matter

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