

Gemini grounding, Gemini for Government and GenAI.mil

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Source file: 02_GROUNDING_AND_GENAI_MIL.md, as it stood on 7 October 2026. Published for checking. Internal cross-references to other files were left as written; private names, non-Latin search strings and local file paths were removed. Google Trends dates in this file are what Google returned at the time stated; Trends redraws its sample.

02 — Grounding, Gemini for Government and GenAI.mil: reference bible

Compiled 2026-10-04 for the fact-check of the claim that GenAI.mil (Gemini for Government) uses "Google API grounding" to run a "live Google image search by title" on every distinguished visitor the morning they are due at Fort Huachuca, and that those searches show up in public Google Trends (Tucson / Sierra Vista, Image Search), so Trends spikes on officials' names amount to a base visitor log.

Labels - **[CONFIRMED official]**: Google primary docs, terms or blog; a DoD/War Dept, GSA or Army release or page. - **[CONFIRMED secondary]**: reputable trade press (DefenseScoop, Defense News, Defense One, Breaking Defense, ExecutiveGov, Fortune and similar). - **[INFERENCE]**: my reasoning from the documented facts. It is not stated anywhere. - **[UNKNOWN]**: searched and not found in any public source.

How the sources were read: Google doc pages were pulled with curl and the article body was extracted, so quotes are verbatim from the live pages as of 2026-10-04. The Vertex AI docs now redirect to the renamed "Gemini Enterprise Agent Platform" docs. war.gov / defense.gov return 403 to scripts, so the Dec 9, 2025 release text was read from the GlobalSecurity.org mirror, which reproduces it verbatim and links the defense.gov original.

0. TL;DR: the 10 facts that matter most

1. **The model writes the search queries, and only in response to a prompt.** Google's own words: "The model analyzes the prompt and determines if a Google Search can improve the answer... If needed, the model automatically generates one or multiple search queries and executes them." [CONFIRMED official]
2. **Google Trends explicitly excludes searches made by Google's own products.** Trends FAQ: "Google Trends also filters out some types of searches, such as: ... **Searches made by Google products and services**: This includes internal searches made by AI Mode and AI Overviews." [CONFIRMED official] Grounding is a Google service. The FAQ does not name "grounding" or "Gemini API" specifically [INFERENCE that it is covered].
3. **Google's Gemini for Government compliance guide lists "Grounding with Google Search" as NOT authorized** for FedRAMP High or IL4 and says agencies should disable it. **Web Grounding for Enterprise** is the authorized web-grounding option. [CONFIRMED official]
4. **Web Grounding for Enterprise does not query Google Search at all.** It uses "a web index... a subset of what's available on Google Search", refreshed every 6 to 24 hours. Google's terms swap "Google's

search engine" for "GCP's web index", and the service "doesn't log customer data." [CONFIRMED official]

5. **"Grounding with Google Image Search" exists, but only to feed reference pictures into image generation**, and only on Gemini 3.1 Flash Image (Preview on Vertex). Google says it "does not support using real-world images of people from web search at this time." [CONFIRMED official]
6. **GenAI.mil launched Dec 9, 2025, CAC-only**. The DoD release says Gemini for Government is "web-grounded against Google Search". That is DoD's wording, not Google's technical spec. [CONFIRMED official] A defense official later described the grounding source as "cached, scraped web content" [CONFIRMED secondary], which matches Web Grounding for Enterprise [INFERENCE].
7. **Scheduled agents exist in commercial Gemini Enterprise**: hourly, daily and so on. A human writes the agent's prompt, the schedule runs on that user's credentials (which expire every 14 days), and schedules are "not supported for actions involving other people." [CONFIRMED official] One GenAI.mil user wrote that he built an agent "to automatically generate a brief on personnel recovery news every morning." [CONFIRMED secondary]
8. **As of April 2026, GenAI.mil agents** "can currently only draw on public sources or uploaded files; [they lack] the ability to reach into internal environments like SharePoint or email." [CONFIRMED secondary] So an agent cannot read a base visitor schedule unless someone uploads it.
9. **No official or trade-press source mentions** visitor processing, base access, protocol or distinguished-visitor (DV) research as a GenAI.mil use case, or any Fort Huachuca / NETCOM Gemini pilot. [UNKNOWN, searched] Fort Huachuca's published visitor process is an NCIC III background check at the Van Deman Gate, and CAC holders such as most visiting officials are simply "permitted access." [CONFIRMED official]
10. **Trends is noisy for low-volume names**. Google: "apparent one-off spikes should not be interpreted as real search activity or evidence of individual searches." [CONFIRMED official]

1. Grounding with Google Search (Gemini API and Vertex AI / Gemini Enterprise Agent Platform)

1.1 Launch dates

Event	Date	Source	Quote	Label
Vertex AI: Grounding with Google Search, Preview (Gemini 1.0 Pro)	Apr 9, 2024	https://docs.cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/docs/release-notes	"The Gemini API now supports Grounding with Google Search in Preview. Currently available for Gemini 1.0 Pro models."	[CONFIRMED official]
Vertex AI: Grounding with Google Search GA	May 14, 2024	same	"The Gemini API Grounding with Google Search feature is available in GA. This is available for Gemini 1.0 Pro models."	[CONFIRMED official]

Event	Date	Source	Quote	Label
Vertex AI: dynamic retrieval GA	Oct 1, 2024	same	"Dynamic retrieval lets you choose when to turn off grounding with Google Search."	[CONFIRMED official]
Gemini API / AI Studio (developer API) launch	Oct 31, 2024	https://developers.googleblog.com/gemini-api-and-ai-studio-now-offer-grounding-with-google-search/	"Today, we are rolling out Grounding with Google Search in Google AI Studio and the Gemini API" (dated OCT. 31, 2024)	[CONFIRMED official]
Web Grounding for Enterprise GA (Vertex)	Apr 9, 2025 (Next '25)	release notes, same URL	"Grounding: Web Grounding for Enterprise is now Generally available."	[CONFIRMED official] (date taken from the release-notes heading)
Grounding with Google Image Search (Preview)	arrived with Gemini 3.1 Flash Image ("Nano Banana 2"), Feb 2026. A user forum post reports it working on Mar 2, 2026	https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/regression-image-search-grounding-returns-no-data-since-3-mar-2026-worked-on-2-mar-2026-gemini-3-1-flash-image-preview/128462	"The feature worked normally yesterday (Mon 2 March 2026)"	exact launch day [CONFIRMED secondary]; it is a Preview feature [CONFIRMED official, see 2.1]

1.2 Exactly how it works, step by step (Google's words)

Source: <https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/docs/google-search> [CONFIRMED official]

1. **"User Prompt:** Your application sends a user's prompt to the Gemini API with the google_search tool enabled."
2. **"Prompt Analysis:** The model analyzes the prompt and determines if a Google Search can improve the answer."
3. **"Google Search:** If needed, the model automatically generates one or multiple search queries and executes them."
4. **"Search Results Processing:** The model processes the search results, synthesizes the information, and formulates a response."
5. **"Grounded Response:** The API returns a final, user-friendly response... as well as google_search_call and google_search_result steps with the search queries and search suggestions."

The Vertex response example shows the model-written query string returned to the developer as "webSearchQueries": ["weather in Chicago this weekend"] (<https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise-agent-platform/models/grounding/grounding-with-google-search>) [CONFIRMED official].

Who writes the queries? The model, not the user. Google's billing example: "User prompt: Tell me about the life of Albert Einstein. Gemini might generate these search queries: Albert Einstein birth and early life

education / Albert Einstein theory of relativity / Albert Einstein life in the US." (Vertex grounding page) [CONFIRMED official]. The queries are reformulations, not the literal prompt.

When does it decide to search? Per prompt. The 2024 launch blog adds a control layer: "When developers request a grounded answer, the dynamic retrieval configuration assigns the prompt a prediction score... developers can set a threshold for what scores should result in grounding (the default threshold value is 0.3)." (developers.googleblog.com, Oct 31, 2024) [CONFIRMED official]. The Vertex page also warns that grounding may not happen at all: "there are several reasons this metadata might not be provided, and the prompt response won't be grounded." [CONFIRMED official]

Is it triggered by a user prompt? Yes. Every Google definition is built on a prompt. Vertex terms: "'Grounded Results' mean responses that Google generates using the prompt from the End User...". Pricing: "A 'Grounding Prompt' is an End User prompt that Customer submits to Gemini for which Gemini makes one or more queries to a Google web index (each a 'Grounding Query')." (https://cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/pricing) [CONFIRMED official]. A prompt can come from software rather than a person typing live; see section 6.

1.3 Billing

Item	Quote	Source	Label
Original Gemini API price	"the paid tier for \$35 per 1,000 grounded queries"	developers.googleblog.com (Oct 31, 2024)	[CONFIRMED official]
Gemini 3: billed per query	"your project is billed for each search query that the model decides to execute... this counts as two billable uses... This billing model only applies to Gemini 3 models; when you use search grounding with Gemini 2.5 or older models, your project is billed per prompt."	ai.google.dev/gemini-api/docs/google-search	[CONFIRMED official]
Vertex, Gemini 3	"Includes 5,000 Grounding Queries per month at no charge... billed at \$14 per 1,000 Grounding Queries... Billing will start January 5, 2026."	cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/pricing	[CONFIRMED official]
Vertex, Gemini 2.x	"\$35 per 1,000 Grounding Prompts"	same	[CONFIRMED official]
Web Grounding for Enterprise (2.x pricing)	"\$45 per 1,000 Grounding Prompts"	same	[CONFIRMED official]
Billed only if sources come back	"billed only when a Grounding Prompt successfully returns sources (i.e., results containing at least one support URL from the web)"	same	[CONFIRMED official]
Daily cap	"Grounding with Google Search has a limit of one million queries per day."	Vertex grounding page	[CONFIRMED official]

1.4 "Search Suggestions" (formerly "Search Entry Point") requirements

- "To use Grounding with Google Search, you must enable Google Search Suggestions." (Vertex grounding page) [CONFIRMED official]
- "you must display the Search Suggestions in production... Specifically, you must display the search queries that are included in the grounded response's metadata." [CONFIRMED official]
- "When a user taps the chip, they are taken directly to a Search results page (SRP) for the search term displayed in the chip." [CONFIRMED official]
- "Search Suggestions were referred to as Search Entry Points before." [CONFIRMED official]

- Terms (Gemini API): "will only display the Grounded Results with the associated Search Suggestion(s) to the end user who submitted the prompt." (<https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/terms>) [CONFIRMED official]
- The Vertex terms let a customer skip the display: "Customer may elect not to display Search Suggestions subject to the conditions set forth on the Pricing page". Pricing: "Customers may decide not to display Search Suggestions... at standard pricing for under 1 million Grounding Prompts per day." [CONFIRMED official]
- **Why this matters for the claim:** the only documented way a grounding session turns into an ordinary google.com search is **a human clicking a suggestion chip**. That click opens a normal Google results page in the person's own browser ("If a Search Suggestion is clicked on, the Google Terms of Service govern the google.com destination page." Service Specific Terms) [CONFIRMED official]. Such a click is an ordinary user search and could be counted like any other search [INFERENCE]. It is human, one at a time, and it happens wherever that user's network exits to the internet (for NIPRNet users that means DoD internet access points, not necessarily the base) [INFERENCE].

1.5 Data retention and logging

Product	Statement	Source	Label
Gemini API (developer)	"Google will store prompts, contextual information that you may provide, and output for thirty (30) days for the purposes of creating Grounded Results and Search Suggestions and the stored information can be used for debugging and testing"	https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/terms	[CONFIRMED official]
Vertex / Agent Platform	"Google... collect[s] and store[s] logs, which contains the following Customer Data: queries derived from End User prompts and contextual information... that are not associated with any Customer or its End Users for up to three (3) days... used for debugging"	https://cloud.google.com/terms/service-terms §20(k)(ii)	[CONFIRMED official]
Vertex zero data retention	"There is no way to disable the storage of this information if you use Grounding with Google Search. If you require zero data retention, we recommend using Web Grounding for Enterprise."	https://docs.cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/docs/vertex-ai-zero-data-retention	[CONFIRMED official]

Product	Statement	Source	Label
Training	"Google does not train on customer data processed by Grounding with Google Search."	Web Grounding for Enterprise page (comparison section)	[CONFIRMED official]
Gemini Enterprise controls	Data residency, CMEK, VPC-SC and Access Transparency footnote: "Doesn't apply when Grounding with Google Search is enabled."	https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini/enterprise/docs/compliance-security-controls	[CONFIRMED official]
Customer may not log or monitor results	"Will not... copy, store, or implement any click tracking, Link-tracking or other monitoring of Grounded Results or Search Suggestions"	Service Specific Terms §20(k)(i)(3)	[CONFIRMED official]
No automated harvesting	"it is a violation of these terms to use Grounding with Google Search to extract or collect one or more of these components for another purpose (for example, using programmatic or automated means to collect Links...)"	same §20(k)(i)(2)	[CONFIRMED official]

1.6 Where the query runs, and what location it uses

- The developer calls `generativelanguage.googleapis.com` OR `aiplatform.googleapis.com`. Google's side then retrieves "results from Google's search engine" (terms). The customer's app never contacts `google.com`. [CONFIRMED official for the API endpoints and the "Google's search engine" wording. That the query itself is issued from Google's own infrastructure is an INFERENCE. No page states the network origin.]
- **Location is optional and caller-supplied.** Vertex: "Search results can be customized for a specific geographic location of the end user by using the latitude and longitude coordinates." The request body uses `"toolConfig": {"retrievalConfig": {"latLng": {"latitude": ..., "longitude": ...}}}`, documented as "Optional: The latitude of the end user's location." [CONFIRMED official]
- No document says what location is used when `latLng` is omitted. [UNKNOWN]
- No document says `latLng` feeds Google Trends geography. [UNKNOWN] Trends geography is described only as "interest... from around the globe or down to city-level geography" (Trends FAQ). [CONFIRMED official]

1.7 Are grounding queries counted in Google Search logs, Trends, or ads?

- **Trends:** "Google Trends also filters out some types of searches, such as: ... Duplicate searches: Trends eliminates repeated searches from the same person over a short period of time ... **Searches made by Google products and services: This includes internal searches made by AI Mode and AI Overviews.**" <https://support.google.com/trends/answer/4365533> [CONFIRMED official]

- The FAQ does not name the "Gemini API", "Vertex" or "grounding". It is reasonable to read them as included, since they are searches made by a Google service, but that is not stated word for word. [INFERENCE]
- Web Grounding for Enterprise never touches Google Search: it queries "GCP's web index". So it cannot appear in Search-based Trends. [INFERENCE from CONFIRMED official terms]
- **Trends noise:** "we incorporate statistical noise that includes small and random fluctuations that don't represent actual search behavior... most noticeable on queries with low or no search interest... These apparent one-off spikes should not be interpreted as real search activity or evidence of individual searches." [CONFIRMED official]
- **Trends time zone:** "For time ranges of 30 days or longer: The data shown in the graph uses Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)... For time ranges of 7 days or shorter: ... your own local time zone". So day-level "spike dates" are UTC days, which run 7 hours ahead of Arizona time (MST, no daylight saving time). [CONFIRMED official for the time zone rule; the Arizona offset is an INFERENCE]
- **Trends Image Search** is a filter ("gprop=images") for searches on Google Images, added in Dec 2017 (<https://searchengineland.com/google-trends-now-shows-data-youtube-search-google-shopping-news-search-image-search-287333>) [CONFIRMED secondary]. No Google doc says grounding image queries count as "Google Images" searches. [UNKNOWN]
- **Search logs:** the only grounding-specific logs Google describes are the debugging logs above (3 days on Vertex, "not associated with any Customer or its End Users"; 30 days on the Gemini API). [CONFIRMED official]
- **Ads:** I found no statement either way on whether grounding queries are used for ads targeting or ad auctions. Google Cloud terms limit Google's use of Customer Data, and Gemini for Government data "is never used to train Google's public models" (Google Cloud press release, Dec 9, 2025). [UNKNOWN on ads specifically]

2. Grounding with Google Image Search

2.1 What it is

- Vertex: "Grounding with Google Image Search lets models use web images retrieved from Google Image Search **as visual context when generating images**. Google Image Search is a new search type within the existing Grounding with Google Search tool... available in **Preview** only for the **Gemini 3.1 Flash Image** model." (<https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise-agent-platform/models/grounding/grounding-with-google-search>) [CONFIRMED official]
- Gemini API: "Grounding with Google Image Search allows models to use web images retrieved via Google Image Search as visual context for image generation... Note: This feature is only available for the Gemini 3.1 Flash Image model." (<https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/docs/image-generation>) [CONFIRMED official]
- Enabled with "googleSearch": {"searchTypes": {"imageSearch": {}, "webSearch": {}}}. The response carries "imageSearchQueries: the specific query used by the model for visual context (also known as the 'image search')." [CONFIRMED official]
- **People are excluded:** "gemini-3.1-flash-image Grounding with Google Search does not support using real-world images of people from web search at this time." (Gemini API image-generation page, Limitations) [CONFIRMED official]
- In ordinary text grounding, image results are not passed through: "when using Grounding with Google Search with image generation, image-based search results are not passed to the generation model and are excluded from the response (see Grounding with Google Image Search)". [CONFIRMED official]

- **Does it return images in text answers?** No. It is documented only as reference material for generating images. [CONFIRMED official, by what the docs describe]
- Launch: arrived with Gemini 3.1 Flash Image ("Nano Banana 2"), Feb 2026, as Preview. [CONFIRMED secondary for the date, see 1.1]
- **GenAI.mil:** "Nano Banana for image generation" was added by about April 2026 (DefenseScoop op-ed, below). The Nano Banana version, and whether Image Search grounding is switched on, are [UNKNOWN]. Google's Gemini for Government guide lists "Image generation using Nano Banana" as authorized at FedRAMP High ("DISA review" at IL4) and lists "Grounding with Google Search" (the parent tool of Image Search) as unauthorized (section 4.3). [CONFIRMED official]

3. Web Grounding for Enterprise ("Enterprise Web Search", tool

enterpriseWebSearch)

Source: <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise-agent-platform/models/grounding/web-grounding-enterprise> [CONFIRMED official unless marked]

- What it is: "The indexed content is a subset of what's available on Google Search and suitable for customers in highly-regulated industries, such as finance, healthcare, and the public sector."
- Logging: "The service doesn't log customer data and supports VPC service controls... Because no customer data is persisted, customer-managed encryption keys (CMEK) and Access Transparency (AxT) aren't applicable."
- "Web Grounding for Enterprise doesn't store customer data." Designed "for enterprise customers who have stringent compliance requirements that include 'no logging of customer data'."
- Freshness: "fast-changing content is updated every 6 hours, and the whole index is updated every 24 hours."
- Compared with Search grounding: "If you don't require the additional compliance controls, use Ground with Google Search, because it offers access to a broader and even more up-to-date web index." "Grounding with Google Search stores reliability logs for up to 3 days."
- **Legal definition (decisive):** Service Specific Terms §20(l): "Section 20(k) (Grounding with Google Search) also applies to Web Grounding for Enterprise, except that: (i) all references to 'Grounding with Google Search' are replaced with 'Web Grounding for Enterprise', (ii) in the 'Grounded Results' definition, the phrase '**Google's search engine**' is replaced with '**GCP's web index**', and; (iii) subsection 20k(ii) [the 3-day debug logs] is deleted." (<https://cloud.google.com/terms/service-terms>) [CONFIRMED official]
- Ads: no ads statement found. [UNKNOWN]
- Launch: GA on Apr 9, 2025 (release notes). [CONFIRMED official]
- **In the Gemini Enterprise app** an admin picks the web-grounding source: "Google search (not Data Residency compliant) to use the standard Google Search index for grounding" or "**Enterprise web search (Data Residency compliant)** to use the enterprise-grade and compliant web index." Users can toggle web search per query: "Users can always change this setting manually for each search." (<https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise/docs/configure-assistant>) [CONFIRMED official]
- **Is this what Gemini for Government uses?** Google's compliance guide lists **Web Grounding for Enterprise as Authorized** for FedRAMP High and IL4 and **Grounding with Google Search as unauthorized** (section 4.3). [CONFIRMED official] Google has not published a statement naming the exact grounding tool configured on GenAI.mil. [UNKNOWN] A defense official's description of "cached, scraped web content" (DefenseScoop, 12/18/2025, section 5.3) matches Web Grounding for Enterprise's

periodically refreshed index [INFERENCE, strong]. DoD's own release says "web-grounded against Google Search" (section 5.1), which could be loose wording covering Google's web index [INFERENCE].

4. Gemini for Government (GSA OneGov)

4.1 Deal and pricing

Fact	Quote	Source	Label
Announced Aug 21, 2025	"GSA announced a OneGov agreement with Google for a new, comprehensive 'Gemini for Government' offering... with agencies paying \$0.47 per agency for Google's AI tools. The offering, which is valid through 2026"	https://www.gsa.gov/about-gsa/newsroom/news-releases/gsa-google-announce-gemini-onegov-agreement-08212025	[CONFIRMED official]
What's included (GSA)	"Google-quality enterprise search; video and image generation capabilities; the NotebookLM AI tool; pre-packaged AI agents on Deep Research, Idea Generation, and more; as well as the ability for federal workers to create their own AI agents."	same	[CONFIRMED official]
FedRAMP (GSA)	"Google Cloud Platform products are FedRamp High authorized."	same	[CONFIRMED official]
What's included (Google)	"a complete AI platform – including Google-quality enterprise search, video and image generation capabilities, the popular NotebookLM Enterprise, out-of-the-box AI agents for Deep Research and Idea Generation, and the ability for employees to create their own AI agents. Priced at less than \$0.50 per government agency for a year"	https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/public-sector/introducing-gemini-for-government-supporting-the-us-governments-transformation-with-ai/ (Aug 21, 2025)	[CONFIRMED official]
Platform pieces	"an AI Agent Gallery; agent-to-agent communication protocols; connectors into enterprise data sets; pre-built AI agents... 'Gemini for Government' also pairs with Google Cloud's Vertex AI platform, which allows agencies to tune or ground their own models as well."	same	[CONFIRMED official]
FedRAMP (Google)	""Gemini for Government' includes FedRAMP High-	same	[CONFIRMED official]

Fact	Quote	Source	Label
	authorized security and compliance features."		
Underlying product	Gemini Enterprise (formerly Google Agentspace), launched Oct 9, 2025	https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/ai-machine-learning/introducing-gemini-enterprise	[CONFIRMED official] for the launch. The Gemini for Government compliance guide lists "Gemini Enterprise" as its first core dependency [CONFIRMED official]

4.2 IL5 status

- "Gemini for Government is an enterprise-grade, AI-optimized platform that unites the best of Google's FedRAMP High and DoW Impact Level 5 (IL5) authorized commercial cloud..." and "Gemini for Government will be deployed at IL5 on GenAI.mil." (Google Cloud press release, Dec 9, 2025: <https://www.googlecloudpresscorner.com/2025-12-09-Chief-Digital-and-Artificial-Intelligence-Office-Selects-Google-Clouds-AI-to-Power-GenAI-mil>) [CONFIRMED official]
- DoD: "all tools on GenAI.mil are certified for Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Impact Level 5 (IL5)" (DoD release, Dec 9, 2025) [CONFIRMED official]
- IL6 (Secret): no public IL6 authorization for Gemini for Government found. GenAI.mil "operates strictly at the unclassified level" (Hoodline summary of reporting, Sept 2026) [CONFIRMED secondary]. Google is reportedly negotiating a separate classified Gemini deployment (same article). [UNKNOWN on IL6 status]

4.3 Google's own compliance guide: what is and isn't authorized

Source: "Deployment guidance for Gemini for Government", last reviewed 2026-09-24:

<https://docs.cloud.google.com/docs/security/compliance/deploy-gemini-gov> [CONFIRMED official]. The page covers FedRAMP High and IL4. GenAI.mil runs at IL5 under its own DoD authorization.

- **Authorized (FedRAMP High / IL4):** Autocomplete, Serving controls, Authorized data stores, **Web Grounding for Enterprise (Authorized / Authorized)**, Uploading documents, model selection. Authorized at FedRAMP High and under "DISA review" at IL4: Deep Research agent, "No-code agent creation using Agent Designer", Agent Gallery, "Image generation using Nano Banana", Gemini Notebook Enterprise, Model Armor, Workspace and third-party federated connectors, Canvas, Projects, Skills.
 - **"Unauthorized features that you should disable manually":** "The following services and features aren't authorized for FedRAMP High or IL4..." The list includes **"Grounding with Google Maps Platform"**, **"Grounding with Google Search"**, "Generate images using Imagen", "Generate video with Veo", "Personalization and memory".
 - How to turn it off: "To turn off grounding with Google Search for all requests, set the constraints/vertexai.disableGenAIGoogleSearchGrounding organization policy boolean constraint to true at the Assured Workloads folder level."
 - Connectors: "IL5 authorization for federated connectors using Gemini Enterprise is pending." "The Google federated connector for Google Workspace... IL5 authorization is pending."
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5. GenAI.mil

5.1 Launch (Dec 9, 2025)

Fact	Quote	Source	Label
Launch	"The War Department today announced the launch of Google Cloud's Gemini for Government as the first of several frontier AI capabilities to be housed on GenAI.mil" (dated December 9, 2025)	DoD release https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/4354916/ (read via the mirror https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2025/12/mil-251209-dod01.htm)	[CONFIRMED official]
Reach	"AI capabilities have now reached all desktops in the Pentagon and in American military installations around the world."	same	[CONFIRMED official]
Grounding wording	"Gemini for Government provides an edge through natural language conversation, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), and is web-grounded against Google Search to ensure outputs are reliable"	same	[CONFIRMED official] (this is DoD's description, not a Google technical spec)
Agentic	"Gemini for Government, empowers intelligent agentic workflows, unleashes experimentation"	same	[CONFIRMED official]
Google use cases	"summarizing policy handbooks, generating project-specific compliance checklists, extracting key terms from statements of work, and creating detailed risk assessments for operational planning"; "simplifying personnel onboarding, automating redundant administrative tasks,	Google Cloud press release, Dec 9, 2025	[CONFIRMED official]

Fact	Quote	Source	Label
	and accelerating contracting workflows."		
CAC login	"Users must have a common access card from the department to log onto GenAI.mil; it cannot be accessed by unauthorized personnel."	https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2025/12/09/pentagon-taps-google-gemini-launches-new-site-to-boost-ai-use/	[CONFIRMED secondary]
NIPRNet / CAC	"certified at Impact Level 5 (IL5) and authorized to handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) on the NIPRNet... can be accessed by verified personnel using a Common Access Card."	https://news.clearancejobs.com/2026/09/28/genai-mil-reaches-1-7-million-pentagon-users-as-ai-moves-into-daily-military-operations/	[CONFIRMED secondary]
Navy description	"It also provides secure web grounding, deep research capabilities and persistent chat histories"; "the use of protected health information and personally identifiable information on the platform is prohibited." (DON memo of Jan 28, 2026)	https://www.executivegov.com/articles/navy-genai-mil-enterprise-it-service-cui-il5	[CONFIRMED secondary]

PII ban (relevant to "searching visitors by name"): the Navy memo, as reported, prohibits PII on GenAI.mil. [CONFIRMED secondary] A visitor roster of names, titles and dates is PII under most DoD definitions [INFERENCE].

"web grounding (IL5 approved)" product-page wording: I did not find a public GenAI.mil product page with that exact phrase; genai.mil itself is CAC-gated. The closest public wordings are DoD's "web-grounded against Google Search" and the Navy's "secure web grounding". [UNKNOWN for the exact phrase]

5.2 Timeline of models and tools

Date	Event	Source / quote	Label
Dec 9, 2025	Gemini for Government launches (first and only model at launch)	DoD release, above	[CONFIRMED official]
Dec 22, 2025 (Mon)	DoD announces an agreement to bring xAI's Grok to GenAI.mil; "DOW expects initial deployment in early 2026", IL5, with "real-	https://www.executivegov.com/articles/pentagon-xai-for-government-genai-mil ; DoD release URL war.gov .../Article/4366573/the-war-department-to-expand-ai-arsenal-on-genaimil-with-xai (403 to scripts)	[CONFIRMED secondary]

Date	Event	Source / quote	Label
	time global insights generated from the social media site X"		
Dec 31, 2025	Air Force decommissions NIPRGPT and points users to GenAI.mil	Hoodline summary of DefenseScoop	[CONFIRMED secondary]
~Jan 2026	Over 1 million users within about a month	Google blog Mar 10, 2026: "In just over one month, GenAI.mil surpassed one million unique users"	[CONFIRMED official]
Jan 28, 2026	Navy memo makes GenAI.mil the mandated GenAI platform	ExecutiveGov (above)	[CONFIRMED secondary]
Feb 9, 2026 (Mon)	OpenAI announces ChatGPT is coming to GenAI.mil	https://breakingdefense.com/2026/02/chatgpt-will-be-available-to-3-million-military-users-on-genai-mil/ : "The Pentagon announced Monday that OpenAI's ChatGPT will join xAI's Grok and Google Gemini on its GenAI.mil platform"	[CONFIRMED secondary]
Feb–Mar 2026	Five of six branches adopt it; the Coast Guard is the holdout	Google blog Mar 10, 2026: "five out of six military branches designating GenAI.mil"	[CONFIRMED official]
Mar 10, 2026	Agent Designer added	https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/public-sector/gemini-for-government-build-custom-ai-agents-for-unclassified-work-on-genaimil : "Agent Designer is a no-/low-code platform that allows GenAI.mil users to easily build AI agents using natural language... automate repetitive, multi-step administrative tasks". Examples: "draft meeting read-aheads, action items from team calls, or employee award submissions"; project checklists	[CONFIRMED official]
early Mar 2026	Claude: DoD designates Anthropic a "supply chain risk". Claude never joined GenAI.mil	https://mybaseguide.com/chatgpt-mil and Fortune (below)	[CONFIRMED secondary]
Apr 2026 (Google Cloud Next)	Gemini 3.1 Pro added; "more than 100,000 AI agents" built; 1.3M active users	https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2026/04/pentagon-adds-googles-latest-model-genaimil-usage-soars/413126/	[CONFIRMED secondary]
by Apr 30, 2026	"model upgrades to Gemini 3.1 Pro and 3 Flash, API access, the introduction of Nano Banana for image generation, and custom agent creation"	DefenseScoop op-ed (Silas Schaeffer): https://defensescoop.com/2026/04/30/improved-but-incomplete-genai-mil-and-the-last-mile-problem/	[CONFIRMED secondary]
Aug 31, 2026 (Mon)	ChatGPT Mil and Grok for Government go live; 1.7M users	https://fortune.com/2026/09/01/pentagon-chatgpt-grok-government-military-ai-members-pete-hegseth-defense-department/ : "The Department of War said in a pair of announcements on Monday that the two services will be incorporated..."	[CONFIRMED secondary]
as of Oct 4, 2026	Claude is not on GenAI.mil	Fortune: "Notably absent from Monday's addition of Grok and ChatGPT to GenAI.mil is Anthropic's Claude."	[CONFIRMED secondary]

Note the conflict: Breaking Defense (Feb 2026) says Grok was "added" three days before Christmas. Fortune and Hoodline say Grok for Government launched on Aug 31, 2026. The Dec 22 event was an announcement and agreement, with deployment "targeted for early 2026". [CONFIRMED secondary for both; the exact Grok go-live date is unclear]

5.3 How the grounding was described by users

- DefenseScoop, Dec 18, 2025: "The official suggested that Google's offering in the platform has an internal dataset that appears to consist of **cached, scraped web content that is enabled by default**. Google reportedly places citation markers next to content pulled. 'Although there is a setting that allows this behavior to be turned off...' <https://defensescoop.com/2025/12/18/genai-mil-users-have-mixed-reactions-and-many-questions/> [CONFIRMED secondary]. That is a curated, periodically refreshed web index, which matches Web Grounding for Enterprise, not live Google Search. [INFERENCE]
- Reported use cases: "configuring awards packages, emails, memorandums, performance reviews and order writing... many use cases... have revolved around administrative tasks." (same) [CONFIRMED secondary]

5.4 Any official mention of visitor processing, base access, protocol, or midnight / automated jobs?

- **None found.** I searched the DoD, Google, GSA, Navy, DefenseScoop, Defense One, Breaking Defense, ExecutiveGov, ClearanceJobs and Fortune coverage. No source mentions distinguished visitors, protocol offices, base access, or scheduled jobs that run at midnight against visitor lists. [UNKNOWN, searched; the absence is confirmed only as far as these searches reach]
- Fort Huachuca's published visitor process: "Individuals with a common access card (CAC), military ID... or other valid Department of War (DoW) credential, are permitted access to Fort Huachuca." Others get "a background check which uses the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index (NCIC III)" at "the Visitor Control Center (VCC) located at the Van Deman Gate". <https://home.army.mil/huachuca/about/Garrison/DES/physical-security/visitor-access> [CONFIRMED official]. Nothing on the page mentions AI or web searches.

5.5 Gemini or GenAI pilots at Army installations before Dec 2025 (Fort Huachuca / NETCOM)

- **Army Enterprise LLM Workspace** (Ask Sage, IL5 SaaS in cArmy Cloud), launched about Apr–May 2025: "The platform uses Azure OpenAI Gov, LLM3A.3.3, Mistral, AWS Bedrock Gov, Google Gemini and other technologies" (<https://executivegov.com/articles/army-generative-ai-platform-launch>); "Registration is streamlined via common access cards" (<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/army-rolls-out-new-ai-workspace-platform/>). Run by the Army's Enterprise Cloud Management Agency, not NETCOM. [CONFIRMED secondary]
 - **NETCOM (headquartered at Fort Huachuca)** launched "Edge" on Oct 16, 2024: "the first government-owned artificial intelligence and machine-learning data science development platform to integrate state-of-the-art, open-source tools on the... DODIN-A." <https://csiac.dtic.mil/articles/data-driven-innovations-in-ai-ml-capabilities-are-forging-netcoms-future/> [CONFIRMED official (DTIC CSIAC reprint)]. It is not Gemini, and no Google link is mentioned.
 - **A Gemini for Government pilot at Fort Huachuca or NETCOM before Dec 2025:** none found. [UNKNOWN, searched]
-

6. Can an automated, scheduled job with no live human prompt use grounding?

At the API level: yes, technically. Any program can send a prompt with the `googleSearch` tool enabled; nothing in the API needs a live human. [INFERENCE from CONFIRMED official API docs] **The terms**, however, assume an End User's prompt and require showing results to "the End User who submitted the prompt". They also ban "using programmatic or automated means" to collect Links and ban copying results "to create a database" (Service Specific Terms §20(k)(i)). [CONFIRMED official] Customers may store results "in the chat history of an End User" (§20(k)(i)(3.1.2)). [CONFIRMED official]

In the Gemini Enterprise app (the base of Gemini for Government): scheduled agents exist. Source: <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini/enterprise/docs/agent-designer/schedule-agent> [CONFIRMED official] - "You can configure your chat agent to execute tasks automatically on a recurring basis. A schedule serves as an automated trigger for the agent's predefined instructions or prompts." - Frequencies: "Hourly... Daily... Weekly... Monthly... Annually", with "Execution time and timezone". The user also writes the "Prompt: enter the specific prompt (or instruction) the agent will receive at the scheduled time." - Limits: "Scheduled chat agents run automatically for **personal tasks**, such as creating your own calendar invites or emailing yourself. However, **scheduling agents is not supported for actions involving other people.**" - "Chat agent schedules operate using **your user credentials**... these credentials expire every 14 days. You must manually refresh your chat agent schedules." - "All scheduled runs... are listed in your chat history." "A maximum delay of 5 minutes is expected." "Schedules are only supported in multi-region locations." - Whether a scheduled agent's web search follows the admin's web-grounding setting (Google Search vs Enterprise web search) is not stated, but that setting is app-level [INFERENCE].

On GenAI.mil specifically: - One user, writing in DefenseScoop: "When used for specific, scheduled tasks, it shows promise. For example, I created an agent to automatically generate a brief on personnel recovery news every morning." [CONFIRMED secondary] So daily scheduled agents that pull public web news existed on GenAI.mil by Apr 2026. - Same author: "it can currently only draw on public sources or uploaded files; it lacks the ability to reach into internal environments like SharePoint or email"; "I cannot set it to automatically email the product to my team or even to myself." [CONFIRMED secondary] - Defense One quotes the Pentagon CDO: Agent Designer is "moving from... just a chat interface to being an actual platform where it can run tasks on its own." [CONFIRMED secondary] - Google's compliance guide lists Agent Designer as authorized at FedRAMP High and under "DISA review" at IL4. The scheduling feature is not listed separately. [CONFIRMED official]

Bottom line for (c): a person could build a personal agent that runs daily at a set time, including midnight, and does web-grounded research. That is documented as possible [CONFIRMED official + secondary]. An institution-wide, automatic, no-human job that reads a visitor list and searches every visitor is **not** documented anywhere. It also runs against several written limits: schedules must be refreshed every 14 days on a personal credential, "not supported for actions involving other people", no access to internal systems as of Apr 2026, PII prohibited on GenAI.mil, and the terms ban building databases from grounding results. [CONFIRMED official/secondary limits; the conclusion is an INFERENCE]

7. How this maps to her claim

Link in her chain	What is documented	What is not documented	What is contradicted	Verdict
(a) GenAI.mil exists and grounds on Google	GenAI.mil launched Dec 9, 2025, CAC-only, IL5. DoD says Gemini is "web-grounded against Google Search".	Which grounding tool is configured on GenAI.mil. Google has never named it.	Google's own Gemini for Government guide lists Grounding with Google Search as NOT authorized (FedRAMP High / IL4) and Web Grounding for Enterprise as authorized . Web Grounding for Enterprise queries "GCP's web index", not Google's search engine, and "doesn't log customer data". A defense official described the source as "cached, scraped web content".	Partly true. It grounds on <i>Google-built web data</i> , almost certainly a compliance index, not live google.com searches.
(b) It image-searches visitors by title	Image Search grounding exists, but only as visual context for generating images , only on Gemini 3.1 Flash Image, in Preview.	Any visitor-search use case. Whether GenAI.mil's Nano Banana even has Image Search turned on.	Google: Image Search grounding "does not support using real-world images of people from web search at this time." Image Search is part of Grounding with Google Search, which is unauthorized in the Gemini for Government guide. Also: the model writes its own queries ("Albert Einstein theory of relativity"); there is no "search by title" mode.	Not supported; contradicted on the mechanism.
(c) On a schedule, at midnight, automatically	Personal scheduled agents exist in Gemini Enterprise (hourly/daily, user's credentials, 14-day refresh). One GenAI.mil user runs a daily news brief.	Any official scheduled job, any visitor-list feed, any midnight job.	Schedules are "not supported for actions involving other people". As of Apr 2026 agents can't reach internal systems (SharePoint, email). PII is prohibited on GenAI.mil. The terms ban "automated means" of collecting results and building a database.	Possible in principle for one person's own agent. Nothing shows the system she describes, and several written limits cut against it.
(d) Those searches appear in public Google Trends (Tucson/Sierra Vista, Image Search)	Trends counts "searches people make on Google".	Any Google statement that API or grounding queries feed Trends. Any link between latLng and Trends geography.	Trends FAQ: it filters out "Searches made by Google products and services" (examples: AI Mode, AI Overviews). Web Grounding for Enterprise doesn't touch Google Search at all. Trends also removes "repeated searches from the same person over a short period of time". The only documented route to a real google.com search is a human clicking a suggestion chip , and that would geolocate to the user's network exit, not the base [INFERENCE].	Contradicted by Google's Trends documentation.
(e) Dated on the visit day	Nothing ties a grounding query's date to anything public.	Any logs that are public. The grounding debug logs are private, kept 3 days, and	Trends charts over 30 days or longer are in UTC : a midnight-Arizona event lands on the <i>next</i> UTC day's 07:00 [INFERENCE]. Google warns that low-volume	Unsupported. Trends' own noise warning undercuts treating a small-name spike as a dated event.

Link in her chain	What is documented	What is not documented	What is contradicted	Verdict
		"not associated with any Customer or its End Users".	one-off spikes are added "statistical noise" and "should not be interpreted as real search activity or evidence of individual searches."	

Plain English

- **True part:** the Pentagon has a Gemini-based AI site (GenAI.mil, since Dec 9, 2025). It can look things up on the web, and individual users can build agents, including ones that run on a timer.
- **Where it breaks:** 1. The Gemini web lookup approved for government use is Google's *enterprise compliance index*. It is a stored copy of part of the web that Google refreshes every 6 to 24 hours, and Google promises it doesn't log the queries. It is not someone typing into google.com. 2. Google's "image search" grounding exists only to help *draw* pictures, and Google says it won't use real photos of people. 3. Nothing anywhere says GenAI.mil reads base visitor lists, and the documented limits (no internal-system access as of April 2026, no PII, personal-only schedules) point the other way. 4. Google says Trends **removes** searches made by Google's own products. Even a real Gemini search with Google Search grounding would be a Google-service search, which is the category Trends filters out. 5. Trends adds random noise to tiny search terms, and Google explicitly says one-off spikes on low-volume terms are not evidence of individual searches.
- **What would be needed to make her chain work, and has not been shown:** (i) GenAI.mil set to use Grounding with Google Search despite Google's guidance; (ii) an agent fed the visitor list despite the PII ban and the lack of internal connectors; (iii) the model choosing to search each name; (iv) Google *not* filtering its own service traffic out of Trends, contrary to its FAQ; (v) the query being geolocated to Sierra Vista and filed under Image Search; (vi) the spike rising above Trends' added noise. Every link is undocumented, and links (b), (d) and (e) are directly contradicted by Google's own pages.

Source list (primary first)

Google, primary - <https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/docs/google-search> - <https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/terms> - <https://ai.google.dev/gemini-api/docs/image-generation> - <https://developers.googleblog.com/gemini-api-and-ai-studio-now-offer-grounding-with-google-search/> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise-agent-platform/models/grounding/grounding-with-google-search> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini-enterprise-agent-platform/models/grounding/web-grounding-enterprise> - <https://cloud.google.com/terms/service-terms> (\$20(k), \$20(l)) - <https://cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/pricing> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/docs/vertex-ai-zero-data-retention> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/vertex-ai/generative-ai/docs/release-notes> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/docs/security/compliance/deploy-gemini-gov> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini/enterprise/docs/compliance-security-controls> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini/enterprise/docs/configure-assistant> - <https://docs.cloud.google.com/gemini/enterprise/docs/agent-designer/schedule-agent> - <https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/public-sector/introducing-gemini-for-government-supporting-the-us-governments-transformation-with-ai/> - <https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/public-sector/gemini-for-government-build-custom-ai-agents-for-unclassified-work-on-genaimil> - <https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/ai-machine-learning/introducing-gemini-enterprise> -

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Trade press, secondary - <https://www.defensenews.com/pentagon/2025/12/09/pentagon-taps-google-gemini-launches-new-site-to-boost-ai-use/> - <https://defensescoop.com/2025/12/09/genai-mil-platform-dod-commercial-ai-models-agentic-tools-google-gemini/> - <https://defensescoop.com/2025/12/18/genai-mil-users-have-mixed-reactions-and-many-questions/> - <https://defensescoop.com/2026/04/23/pentagon-uses-genai-mil-to-create-agents/> - <https://defensescoop.com/2026/04/30/improved-but-incomplete-genai-mil-and-the-last-mile-problem/> - <https://www.defenseone.com/defense-systems/2026/04/pentagon-adds-googles-latest-model-genaimil-usage-soars/413126/> - <https://breakingdefense.com/2026/02/chatgpt-will-be-available-to-3-million-military-users-on-genai-mil/> - <https://www.executivegov.com/articles/google-gemini-gov-pentagon-genai-mil> - <https://www.executivegov.com/articles/navy-genai-mil-enterprise-it-service-cui-il5> - <https://www.executivegov.com/articles/pentagon-xai-for-government-genai-mil> - <https://www.executivegov.com/articles/google-public-sector-agent-designer> - <https://executivegov.com/articles/army-generative-ai-platform-launch> - <https://www.meritalk.com/articles/army-rolls-out-new-ai-workspace-platform/> - <https://fortune.com/2026/09/01/pentagon-chatgpt-grok-government-military-ai-members-pete-hegseth-defense-department/> - <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2026/09/28/genai-mil-reaches-1-7-million-pentagon-users-as-ai-moves-into-daily-military-operations/> - <https://searchengineland.com/google-trends-now-shows-data-youtube-search-google-shopping-news-search-image-search-287333> - Lower-tier, used only for cross-checks: <https://mybaseguide.com/chatgpt-mil> , <https://hoodline.com/2026/09/pentagon-adds-chatgpt-and-grok-to-genai-mil-reaching-3-million-users/>

Could not fetch directly (403): war.gov / defense.gov / ai.mil releases (a mirror was used), OpenAI's "bringing ChatGPT to GenAI.mil" post (Breaking Defense's quotes were used), af.mil AFPC article. The web.archive.org fetch tool was blocked in this environment.