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AI-Powered Military Border Surveillance System Using Face Recognition and Military Vehicle Detection

Prof. P. T. Jagtap[1], Om Ashok Salunkhe[2], Omkar Rajabhau Pujari[3], Anjali Dnyanoba Survase[4], Shubham Hanumant Kondhare[5]
Guide, Department of Information Technology[1]
Students, Department of Information Technology[2-5]
Smt. Kashibai Navale College of Engineering, Vadgoan Bk, Pune

Abstract: *Border security is a critical aspect of national defense that demands continuous monitoring and rapid identification of potential threats. Conventional surveillance systems depend heavily on manual observation, which may result in delayed responses, human fatigue, and reduced accuracy. To overcome these limitations, this project proposes an AI-powered military border surveillance system that integrates face recognition and military vehicle detection using modern machine learning and computer vision techniques.*

The proposed system employs the Haar Cascade algorithm for facial detection and authentication of authorized military personnel, while the YOLOv8 deep learning model is used to detect, classify, and estimate the distance of military vehicles in real time. Upon detecting unauthorized individuals or suspicious vehicle activity, the system automatically captures visual evidence, records time and location information, and sends alert notifications to security authorities. This automated and intelligent approach reduces human intervention, improves surveillance accuracy, and offers a scalable solution for modern border security operations..

Keywords: *Border security*

I. INTRODUCTION

Border protection plays a vital role in ensuring national safety by preventing illegal entry, smuggling, and hostile activities. Military border areas require uninterrupted surveillance to monitor both personnel movement and vehicle activity. Traditional surveillance methods rely mainly on human monitoring through cameras and physical checkpoints, which can be inefficient due to delayed decision-making and human error. As security threats continue to evolve, there is a growing demand for intelligent systems capable of performing real-time detection and automated response. Advancements in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and computer vision have made it possible to develop smart surveillance systems that can analyze visual data efficiently. Face recognition technology enables reliable identification of authorized personnel, while deep learning-based object detection models such as YOLO provide accurate and fast vehicle detection. This project presents an integrated AI-based surveillance system that combines these technologies to enhance border security. By automating detection, authentication, and alert mechanisms, the proposed system improves situational awareness and strengthens defense monitoring.

II. RELATED WORK

In recent years, artificial intelligence and computer vision have played a significant role in enhancing surveillance systems for security-critical applications. Face recognition has been widely adopted for personnel authentication due to its non-intrusive nature and reliability. Traditional techniques such as the Haar Cascade algorithm have been

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extensively used for real-time face detection because of their low computational cost and fast execution. With the advancement of deep learning, more robust facial recognition approaches have emerged, improving accuracy under varying lighting and environmental conditions and making them suitable for high-security environments.

Similarly, vehicle detection has evolved with the introduction of deep learning-based object detection models. Algorithms from the YOLO family have demonstrated high efficiency in detecting and classifying vehicles in real time by processing entire images in a single pass. These models are well-suited for surveillance applications where speed and accuracy are critical. However, most existing surveillance systems focus on either face recognition or vehicle detection as separate solutions. There is limited work on integrating both technologies into a unified framework with automated alert mechanisms. The proposed system addresses this limitation by combining face authentication and military vehicle detection to provide a comprehensive and intelligent border surveillance solution.

III. METHODOLOGY

The proposed military border surveillance system is developed using a structured approach that combines machine learning, computer vision, and automated alert mechanisms. The process begins with the acquisition of live video streams from surveillance cameras installed in restricted border areas. These video frames are continuously captured and preprocessed to enhance image quality, ensuring reliable detection under varying lighting and environmental conditions.

For personnel authentication, the system applies the Haar Cascade algorithm to locate human faces within the video frames. Detected faces are then compared with a pre-trained database of authorized military personnel to verify identity. In parallel, military vehicle detection is carried out using the YOLOv8 deep learning model, which analyzes each frame to identify and classify vehicles in real time. The system also estimates the distance of detected vehicles from the camera to assess potential threat levels. Whenever an unauthorized individual or suspicious vehicle is detected, the system automatically records the event details, captures visual evidence, and sends alert notifications to security authorities. This methodology minimizes human involvement while ensuring accurate, fast, and reliable border surveillance.

IV. ARCHITECTURE

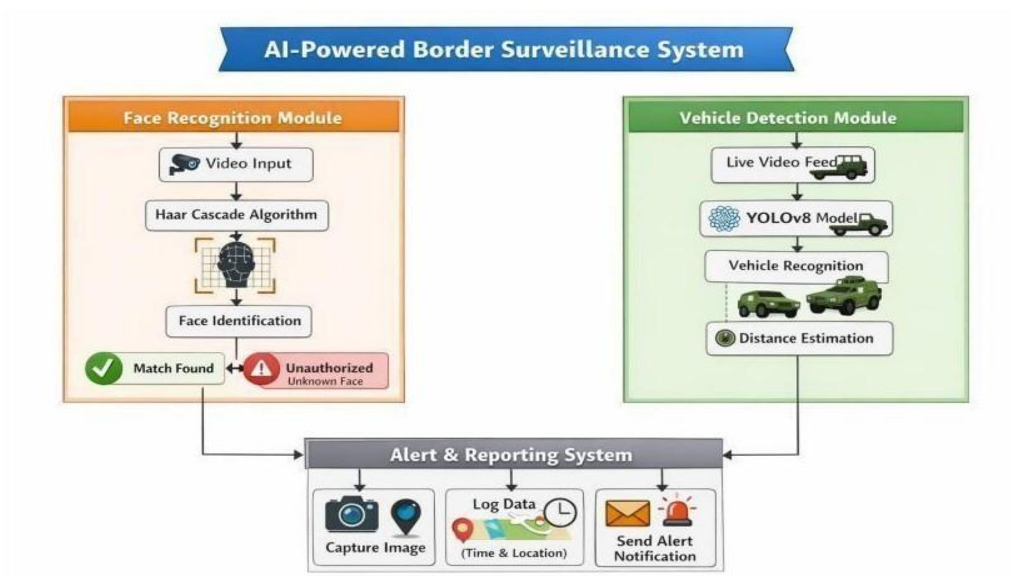

Figure 2: Architecture Diagram

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The architectural design of the proposed AI-powered military border surveillance system integrates face recognition and military vehicle detection within a unified framework. The system begins with surveillance cameras that continuously capture live video streams from border areas. These video frames are forwarded to the preprocessing unit, where image enhancement and frame extraction are performed to improve detection accuracy. The processed frames are then passed simultaneously to two core modules: the face recognition module and the military vehicle detection module.

The face recognition module uses the Haar Cascade algorithm to detect faces and authenticate individuals by comparing them with a stored database of authorized personnel. In parallel, the military vehicle detection module employs the YOLOv8 deep learning model to detect, classify, and estimate the distance of military vehicles in real time. Detection results from both modules are sent to a centralized decision and alert unit, which records time and location details in a database and generates automated alert notifications in case of unauthorized activity. This layered architecture ensures real-time processing, reduced human intervention, and reliable border surveillance.

5.1. System Implementation and User Interface

System Implementation

The proposed AI-powered military border surveillance system is implemented using Python as the core programming language due to its extensive support for machine learning and computer vision libraries. OpenCV is used for video capture, frame preprocessing, and face detection using the Haar Cascade algorithm. The military vehicle detection module is implemented using the YOLOv8 deep learning model, which is trained on a dataset containing various military vehicles. The trained model processes live video streams to detect, classify, and estimate the distance of vehicles in real time.

The backend logic manages detection results, alert generation, and data storage. Whenever an unauthorized face or suspicious vehicle is detected, the system automatically captures the image, records the date, time, and location details, and stores them in a centralized database. An automated email alert module is integrated to notify security authorities instantly. The system is designed to operate continuously with minimal human intervention, ensuring reliable and real-time surveillance.

User Interface

The user interface of the system is designed to be simple, intuitive, and user-friendly to support efficient monitoring by security personnel. The interface displays live video feeds from surveillance cameras along with real-time detection results. Bounding boxes are drawn around detected faces and vehicles, with labels indicating authentication status and vehicle type. Alert notifications are clearly displayed when unauthorized activity is identified.

Additional interface components allow authorized users to manage personnel records, view detection logs, and review stored images with timestamps and location details. The interface is developed using Pythonbased GUI tools such as Tkinter or Streamlit, enabling smooth interaction between the user and the system. This well-structured interface ensures ease of use, faster decision-making, and effective monitoring in military border surveillance environments.

Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the proposed AI-powered military border surveillance system is evaluated using standard machine learning and computer vision metrics to ensure accuracy, efficiency, and reliability. Detection accuracy is used to measure the overall correctness of face authentication and military vehicle detection, while precision and recall evaluate the system's ability to correctly identify authorized personnel and vehicles without generating false alarms. The F1-score is considered to assess the balance between precision and recall. In addition, real-time performance is analyzed using processing speed measured in frames per second (FPS) and detection latency to determine the responsiveness of the system. Distance estimation error is evaluated to measure the accuracy of vehicle distance

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calculation, and system reliability is assessed based on consistent performance during continuous surveillance. These metrics collectively demonstrate the effectiveness and suitability of the system for real-time military border monitoring.

5.2. Architectural Implementation Overview

Our implementation follows a modular service architecture with clear separation of concerns: Frontend Components

- Live video streaming panel to display real-time surveillance footage.
- Face detection and vehicle detection visualization using bounding boxes and labels.
- Alert notification panel to display unauthorized access or suspicious vehicle detection.
- User authentication interface for authorized system access.
- Log viewing section to review stored detection records with date, time, and location.
- Simple and intuitive GUI developed using Python-based frameworks such as Tkinter or Streamlit.

Service Layer Implementation

- Handles communication between frontend and backend processing modules.
- Processes live video frames received from the frontend camera input.
- Executes face recognition using the Haar Cascade algorithm.
- Performs military vehicle detection and classification using the YOLOv8 model.
- Manages decision-making logic to identify unauthorized personnel or vehicles.
- Triggers automated alert notifications through email services.
- Coordinates data storage and retrieval operations with the database layer.

Database Integration

- Stores facial datasets of authorized military personnel.
- Maintains records of detected vehicles, including classification results.
- Saves captured images, timestamps, and location details for each detection event.
- Supports efficient retrieval of historical surveillance logs.
- Ensures data consistency and reliability using SQLite or MySQL database systems.
- Enables scalability for future data expansion and long-term storage needs.

5.3 Implementation Screenshots Login

Signin Page:

The login and signin module enables authorized users to securely create accounts and access the system using valid credentials. It ensures controlled access to surveillance features and protects sensitive security data.

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Figure:1 GUI-Main

Figure: 2 Login

Figure: 3 Registration Page

Figure: 4 New Registration

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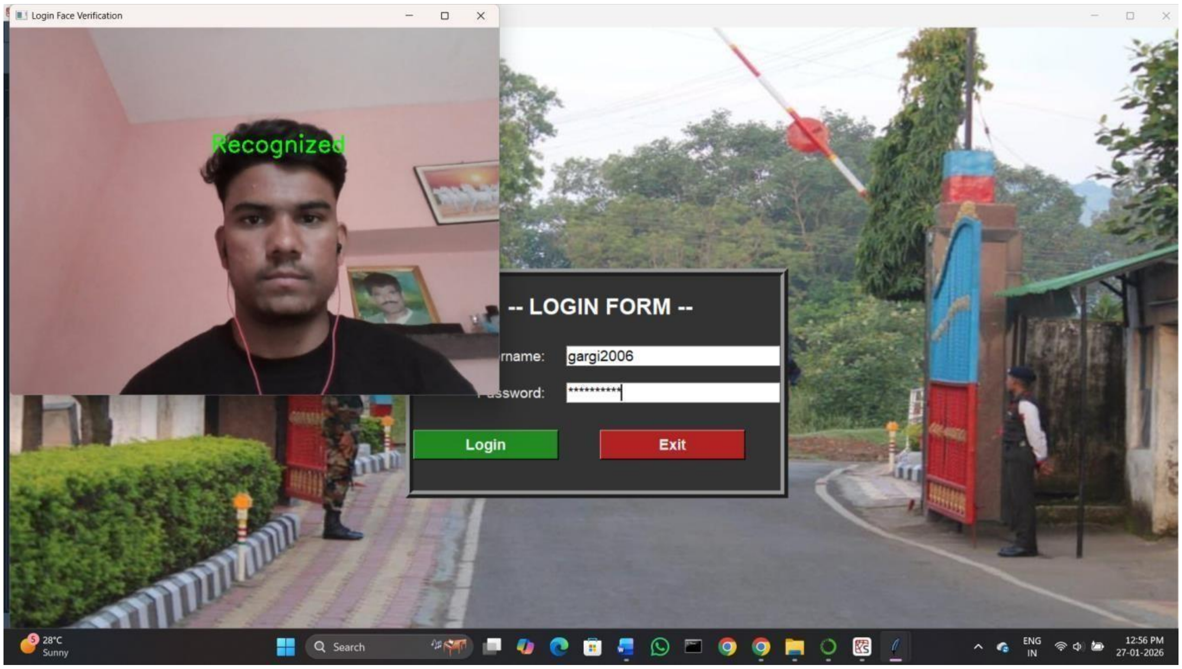

Figure: 5 Face Recognition After Login

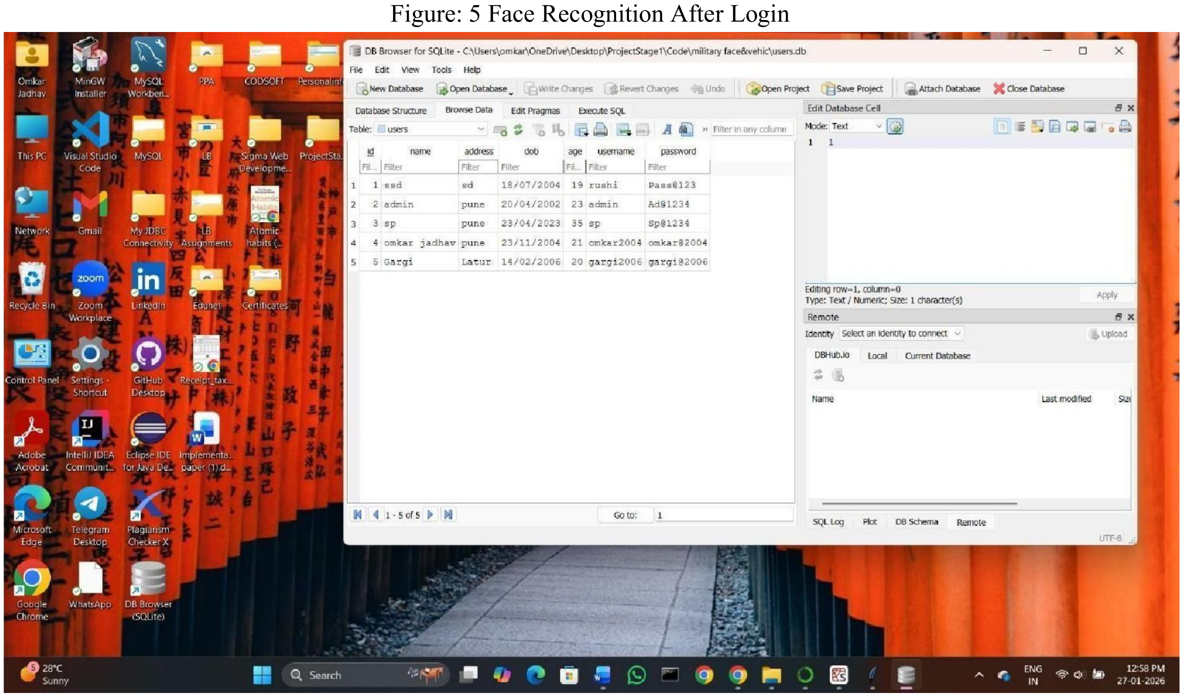

Figure: 6 Database implementation

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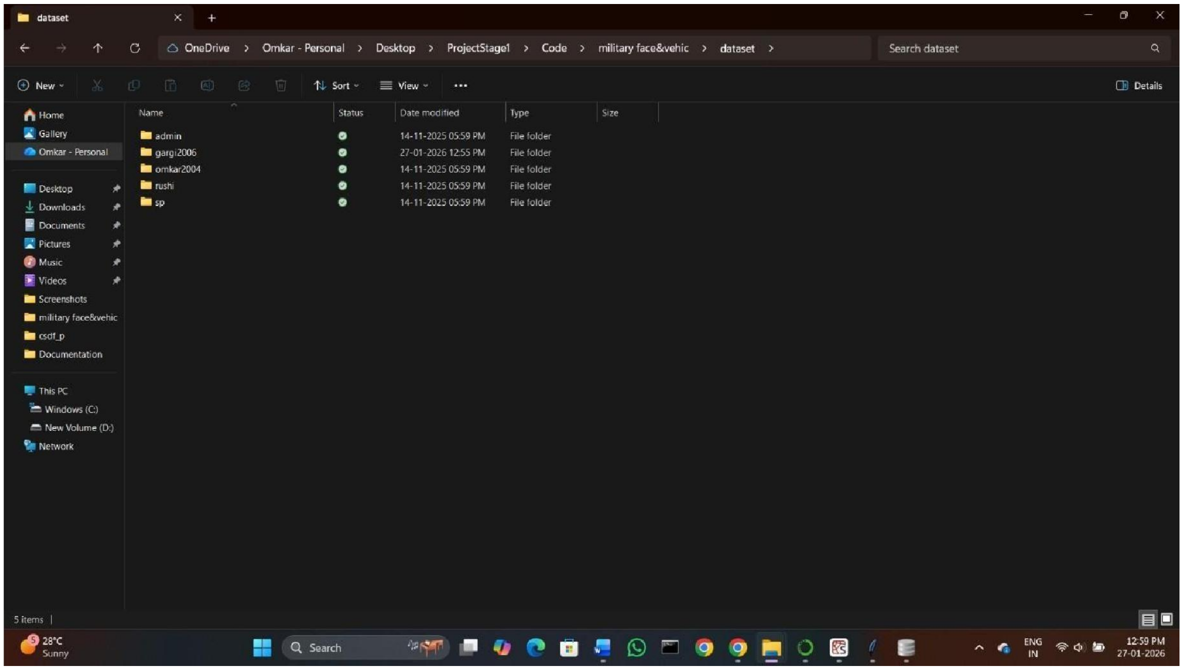

Figure: 7 Image Dataset

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Key Findings of the Survey

- Automated surveillance systems significantly reduce human workload and monitoring errors.
- Face recognition improves the identification of authorized personnel in restricted military zones.
- Real-time vehicle detection enhances early threat identification and response speed.
- Integration of AI-based alerts increases efficiency in border security operations.
- Users prefer systems that provide instant notifications with visual evidence and location details.

Challenges in the Field

- Variations in lighting and weather conditions affect detection accuracy.
- Occlusion of faces or vehicles can reduce recognition performance.
- Requirement of high-quality datasets for effective model training.
- Real-time processing demands high computational resources.
- Deployment in remote border areas may face connectivity and hardware constraints.

Limitations of the Survey

- Survey data is based on a limited number of participants and scenarios.
- Results may vary under extreme environmental or operational conditions.
- The survey focuses primarily on software performance rather than hardware constraints.
- User responses may include subjective opinions influencing outcomes.
- Long-term performance evaluation was not covered within the survey duration.

VI. CONCLUSION

The proposed AI-powered military border surveillance system effectively combines face recognition and military vehicle detection to enhance border security through automated and real-time monitoring. By utilizing the Haar Cascade algorithm for personnel authentication and the YOLOv8 deep learning model for vehicle detection, the system achieves high accuracy while minimizing human intervention. Automated alert generation, image capture, and location logging improve response time and situational awareness in sensitive border zones. Overall, the system provides a reliable, scalable, and efficient solution for modern military surveillance, with the potential for further enhancement using advanced deep learning models and additional sensing technologies.

VII. ALGORITHMS USED

1. Haar Cascade Algorithm (Face Detection and Authentication)

The Haar Cascade algorithm is used for detecting human faces in real-time video streams. It works by identifying specific facial features such as edges and textures using Haar-like features and a cascade of classifiers. This algorithm is computationally efficient and suitable for real-time applications, making it effective for authenticating authorized military personnel and detecting unknown individuals in surveillance footage.

2. YOLOv8 Algorithm (Military Vehicle Detection)

YOLOv8 (You Only Look Once version 8) is a deep learning-based object detection algorithm used to detect and classify military vehicles in real time. It processes the entire image in a single forward pass through a convolutional neural network, enabling fast and accurate detection. YOLOv8 is well-suited for surveillance systems due to its high detection speed, accuracy, and ability to handle multiple objects simultaneously.

3. OpenCV-Based Image Processing Algorithms

OpenCV is used for image preprocessing operations such as resizing, grayscale conversion, noise reduction, and frame extraction from video streams. These preprocessing steps enhance image quality and improve the performance of face recognition and vehicle detection models under different environmental conditions.

4. Distance Estimation Algorithm

An image-based distance estimation technique is used to calculate the distance of detected military vehicles from the surveillance camera. This algorithm uses object size, camera parameters, and bounding box dimensions to approximate distance, providing better situational awareness and supporting threat assessment.

VIII. LITERATURE SURVEY

 Early research in face detection introduced feature-based approaches that focused on identifying facial patterns such as edges and contrasts.
These techniques enabled fast detection and formed the foundation for real-time security and monitoring applications.

 With the advancement of machine learning, deep learning-based face recognition systems were developed to improve accuracy and robustness.
Such systems learn discriminative facial features, allowing reliable identification even under varying lighting and pose conditions.

 Object detection techniques evolved from traditional window-based scanning methods to single-stage deep learning models.
This transition significantly improved detection speed and reduced computational complexity.

 The YOLO family of algorithms demonstrated the ability to detect multiple objects simultaneously by analyzing the complete image in one pass.
This capability made YOLO models suitable for real-time surveillance and vehicle detection tasks.

 Recent versions of YOLO improved localization accuracy and detection reliability in complex and crowded scenes. These enhancements support effective identification of vehicles in dynamic and high-risk environments.

 Studies on intelligent surveillance systems highlight the benefits of automation in reducing human error and improving monitoring efficiency.
Automated alert mechanisms were found to enhance response time during security threats.

 Research involving advanced sensing technologies such as drones and thermal cameras improved detection in low-visibility conditions.
However, these systems often require specialized hardware and increased operational costs.

 Most existing works address face recognition and object detection independently rather than as a unified solution.
This creates a gap in developing integrated surveillance frameworks for comprehensive border security.

 The reviewed literature emphasizes the need for an efficient, real-time system that combines personnel authentication and vehicle detection.
The proposed project aims to address this gap using a scalable and AI-driven approach.

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