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# The Preparedness Gap

*OpenAI named Astra Critical. Then it named itself the referee. That is the whole problem.*

SHANE SCHRECK

*Founder, ALEETH · U.S. Army Veteran*

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AUTHOR: SHANE SCHRECK

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> A model that can find unknown flaws and chain them across hardened systems without step-by-step human guidance is not governed by a blog post, a partner program, or a chain of thought the lab itself says is fragile. Preparedness is an internal policy. Control is an independent plane that can refuse the act and prove the refusal.

ALEETH was built for that plane. Rail Guard decides before the tool runs. A signed receipt settles what ran. If the receipt cannot be written, the caller does not get the body. The record that proves the system was stopped is the same record that proves the story about it.

**Astra makes the category real. It does not close it.**

The public sentence is now operational:

> *You may run Astra. You may not let Astra act unsigned.*

The first increment of that sentence is in the Authority MCP: a generic downstream wrapper, a hold path for irreversible acts, a TaskContract that contains a multi-day campaign without reading the model's diary, a receipt that binds the delivered bytes, and a local verification mode that can withhold when the signature does not check.

What is not yet a production fact: wrapping a live Astra tool surface. That is a deploy decision, not a paragraph.

THE BOTTOM LINE

*Power without proof is not strength. It is exposure.*

The full standard, Institutional Control Architecture, is published at aleeth.com/publications/standard. The instrument is in production today.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Shane Schreck** is the founder of ALEETH and the author of Institutional Control Architecture. ALEETH is building the independent verification layer for autonomous AI deployment. He is a U.S. Army Veteran.