


# Army, Drones and Lessons from Ukraine: General Freuding to Lead Germany’s Defense from 2027

Published on 06/11/2026

The **German Ministry of Defense** has announced the appointment of Lieutenant General (*Generalleutnant*) **Christian Freuding** as the next **Chief of Defense of the German armed forces** (*Generalinspekteur der Bundeswehr*). Freuding will assume the **country's highest military post** in **February 2027**.

## The leadership transition and the NATO role

Freuding will succeed General **Carsten Breuer**, who has been designated as the next **Chair of the NATO Military Committee**, the Alliance's highest military authority and a key advisory body for international political leaders.

## Strategic perspective on Ukraine: tactical analysis and decisive support

Having taken command of the **German Army** (*Inspekteur des Heeres*) in **October 2025**, Freuding had previously distinguished himself by coordinating for several years the Defense Ministry's special office responsible for **weapons deliveries and military assistance to Kyiv**.

From the most critical stages of the conflict, the officer has maintained a clear and pragmatic view of developments on the ground: while acknowledging Moscow's military momentum, Freuding has consistently maintained that Kyiv has a real prospect of victory, stating that «***Russia clearly has the initiative along the***

***front line**, but we are firmly convinced that **Ukraine can win**: all our efforts, and those of our partners, are dedicated to that»*.

His military analysis has accurately captured the complexity of operational maneuvers, as demonstrated by the withdrawal from Avdiivka, which he described as «***an orderly and tactically sound operation***», highlighting Ukraine's efforts to establish favorable defensive positions.

Freuding rigorously outlined the technical and military factors that hampered the 2023 counteroffensives, identifying **Russian minefields stretching for miles**, the lack of **local numerical superiority (from 3:1 to 5:1)** and high **vulnerability to the air threat** as the key factors that obstructed penetration of enemy lines.

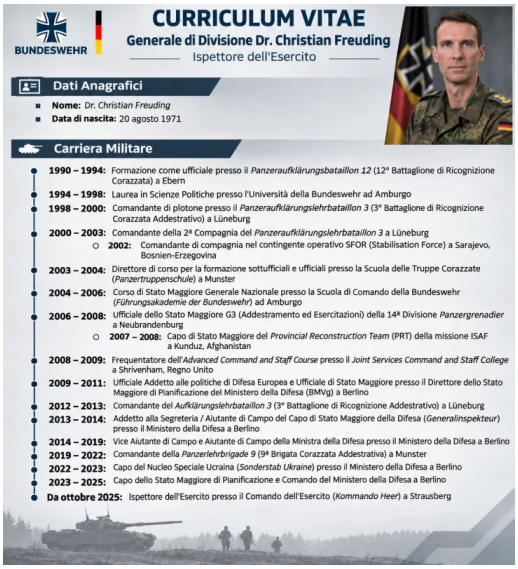
At the same time, he noted that Kyiv's forces had waged an effective long-range attrition campaign, targeting «***command facilities, logistics, airfields, and special targets such as the Black Sea Fleet***».

With his customary analytical candor, the general reiterated the vital importance of Western supplies in sustaining an «***existential struggle for survival against an enemy with seemingly unlimited reserves and a defense industry operating at full capacity***», drawing on this direct experience to advocate the integration of **new technologies proven on the Ukrainian battlefield** and the establishment of the Bundeswehr's **first drone regiment**.

## The defense minister's statements

The German defense minister, **Boris Pistorius**, expressed full confidence in the designated general:

> *«Lieutenant General Freuding embodies **the camaraderie and values of our Bundeswehr**.He is guided by a **clear moral compass** and has demonstrated impressively that, even in times of major change and challenges, **he can remain calm, make the right decisions quickly, and put them into practice immediately**.»*




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**Source:** Bundesministerium der Verteidigung