



DEFENSE: NATO Integrates Ukrainian Experience in Anti-Drone Capability Development

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KIEV (UKRAINE) – The experience gained by Ukraine in operational theaters officially enters the core of NATO's future capability development process for countering unmanned aerial systems (C-UAS). The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense has highlighted the crucial role played by experts from the *NATO-Ukraine Joint Analysis, Training and Education Centre* (JATEC) during the second phase of the *Layered Counter-UAS Initiative* (LCI-X) exercise, recently held in Finland under the aegis of Allied Command Transformation.

A qualitative leap in technological integration

While the first phase of the initiative focused on evaluating individual technologies, the activity in Finland marked a decisive shift. The objective moved to systemic integration: the combination of sensors, Command and Control (C2) systems, tactical cells, and response assets within a cohesive operational architecture. The test took place under high-stress conditions,

simulating electronic jamming scenarios and advanced *spoofing* techniques.

The Ukrainian tactical contribution: the "realism factor"

Ukrainian specialists were entrusted with a primary task: to enhance the realism of the exercise by acting as *Opposing Force* (OPFOR). Through the coordination of fixed-wing drones and FPV (*First Person View*) systems, the Ukrainian contingent transferred lessons learned from the ongoing conflict with the Russian Federation to the Allies, ensuring that the developed countermeasures are aligned with current asymmetric threats.

Industrial innovation and future scenarios

The exercise saw the participation of about ten international companies, called to submit their solutions to rigorous tests of:

- **Detection and identification:** Early detection capabilities in complex environments.
- **Interception:** Effectiveness of neutralization systems.
- **Data sharing:** Speed of real-time information flow within the Command and Control network.

The Ministry of Defense of Kiev emphasized how the Ukrainian contribution is significantly accelerating the NATO technological development lifecycle. The next steps of the initiative will focus on full integration with the Alliance's air command and control systems and procedures for cross-border operations.

The outcome of this exercise cycle confirms Ukraine's growing role not only as a recipient of support but as a true operational and doctrinal reference for defining the future counter-UAS defense capabilities of the Atlantic Alliance.