



Germany Raises Sabotage Threat Alert Level Amid Fears of Direct Russian Attacks

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VIENNA — The German armed forces, the *Bundeswehr*, have **raised their assessment of the Russian sabotage threat to the second-highest level**. In the national security context, a **sabotage threat** refers to the tangible risk of **covert actions intended to damage, destroy, or disable critical infrastructure, military bases, equipment, and weapons systems**, as well as the potential use of explosive devices and hostile elements to disrupt logistics chains and defense operations.

According to a confidential internal assessment reported on October 21 by public broadcaster WDR and the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* newspaper, Berlin's armed forces now fear that German military personnel and installations could **themselves become targets of attacks on German soil**, going beyond mere espionage or surveillance activity.

The report's findings point to a **broader and more pervasive risk** than security specialists had previously anticipated, having until now focused their attention on Ukrainian troop training

facilities, naval bases, and shipyards. The new assessment highlights that **vulnerable sites can no longer be geographically contained**, foreshadowing a **general deterioration in security** with possible **concrete actions in the short term**.

The drone case in Wunstorf and the Leipzig incident

The reassessment of the threat follows the **discovery in September of a crashed drone** near the **Wunstorf air base** in northern Germany. A few meters from the aircraft, investigators found a **canister containing explosives**, likely intended to target military aircraft.

According to analyses by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), the drone **may have remained hidden near the base for about two years**. Its design is entirely similar to that of the explosive-laden drone used in the **failed attack on Leipzig/Halle Airport** in early August. The military assessment draws a clear distinction between the two incidents:

- **Leipzig**: represented an **indirect threat**, targeting Ukrainian aircraft.
- **Wunstorf**: saw the **Bundeswehr itself as the direct target**.

Military intelligence assesses Russia's **ability to act against German facilities as almost certain** and notes that the use of armed drones has **crossed a "red line"**, demonstrating a clear intent to cause **physical damage and potentially lethal effects**.

Strategic objectives and countermeasures

The German government has **officially attributed the foiled attack in Leipzig to Russia**. The military assessment links this campaign to two main objectives:

1. **Politically**: to weaken support for the Ukrainian cause within Germany.
2. **Operationally**: to hinder deliveries of military equipment and troop training.

A spokesperson for the Comando Operativo confirmed that **the risk of sabotage is currently considered "substantial"**. Consequently, the *Bundeswehr* is **strengthening protective measures** at all its installations.

The alert also follows **suspicious drone overflights** above sites housing the **Arrow 3** missile defense system and maintenance centers for **Patriot systems**.

Moscow's response

Russia has systematically rejected all accusations of involvement in sabotage or hybrid attacks, accusing Berlin of fabricating incidents to fuel anti-Russian sentiment. Russia's ambassador to Germany called the allegations concerning the Leipzig incident "absurd," dismissing it as a "provocation."