Germany - The Bundeswehr Between Personnel Shortage and High Technology

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Defense Minister Boris Pistorius has shaken the political landscape of Berlin with his proposal to reintroduce a form of selective compulsory service. Although the **"Zeitenwende" (epochal change)** has unlocked significant financial resources, the fundamental problem of the Bundeswehr remains the chronic personnel shortage. Without a structural change in recruitment, the goal of achieving "combat readiness" by 2029 is not feasible according to experts. **The proposed model aims to annually select only the most qualified and motivated young adults for service, to ensure the operational effectiveness of elite units.**

Shield Against Drones: The Rise of the Sky Ranger 30

On the technological front, Germany aims to protect its mechanized units through the **Sky Ranger 30 system by Rheinmetall**. The experiences of recent conflicts in Eastern Europe

have shown that armored units without close air defense escort are vulnerable to cheap drones and loitering munitions. The Sky Ranger 30, integrated on Boxer or Lynx chassis, combines a 30mm cannon with programmable AHEAD ammunition and short-range missiles. This system is becoming the standard for the German army's air defense and is poised to become an export success within NATO.

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Logistics and Presence: The Lithuania Brigade as a Stress Test

The planning of the permanent presence of a German combat brigade in Lithuania by 2027 is the most ambitious project of the Bundeswehr in decades. However, the logistical and personnel requirements risk depleting the remaining army structures. While the Bundeswehr massively strengthens its presence on NATO's eastern flank, military planners warn against the risk of a "shadow army" at home. The focus of the next 48 months will be to verify whether the industry can deliver the promised weapon systems – from the Leopard 2A8 to the Puma combat vehicle – with the necessary speed to assume the role of European leading power.