



NATO High Tech - where Artificial Intelligence changes the rules of war

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Wiesbaden — While Moscow intensifies its hybrid operations in Europe, NATO is not standing by. In Wiesbaden, at the heart of the Lucius D. Clay base, a technological and doctrinal revolution is underway. BILD has obtained exclusive access to the secret headquarters and the innovation lab where programmers, officers, and international engineers are designing the defense of tomorrow.

About **23,000 people**, including US soldiers, families, and civilian employees, animate this garrison that resembles a small American city. But behind appearances lies the operational brain of a new military era: the awareness that the fate of conflicts is no longer decided by tanks or artillery, but by technological speed and unmanned systems.

A global network: from sensors to action in seconds

The pillar of this transformation is the **“Eastern Flank Deterrence Initiative” (EFDI)**, a new doctrine designed to connect sensors, drones, and weapons into a single shared data network.

As explained by **Captain Ronan Sefton**, a drone specialist in the US Army, the main lesson from recent conflicts is that drone technology provides a decisive tactical advantage to anyone who knows how to exploit it. The key is network communication: reconnaissance drones identify targets, ground sensors and radars complete the picture, and the information goes directly to those who need to act.

- **From sensor to agent:** The bureaucratic steps and long command chains of the past have been eliminated. Today, data flows in real-time.
- **The role of AI:** Artificial intelligence does not decide on life or death. Its task is to process large volumes of data, recognize patterns, and automatically route information where needed.
- **Remote control:** In the lab, Lithuanian engineer **Jonas Lekevicius** demonstrated how it is possible to pilot a drone in real-time that is hundreds of kilometers away in Lithuania.

The control room and record reaction times

Crossing the threshold of the true command room, the atmosphere resembles that of a NASA space center. Large digital screens merge maps, satellite images, and continuous data streams.

- *“We are moving at high speed”* — emphasizes Canadian Major **Mike Mendica**.
- According to US Major **Brian Hobeck**, in the event of a hypothetical Russian invasion, the first alarms would reach Wiesbaden instantly, triggering coordinated reactions within **about five minutes**.

3D printing and flexibility: war becomes economical and lethal

In the innovation lab, the US Army is also experimenting with new production methods. The use of **3D printers** to create spare parts and supports allows testing of new ideas in a matter of hours instead of months.

- *“If we can print new parts, we can test new ideas the same day”* — explains **Major Ben Schiff**.

This makes military production more economical, offering NATO a symmetrical response to Russia's numerical superiority. The goal is not to increase the number of soldiers but to use drones to better protect the troops. Since no technology remains unbeatable for long and the enemy quickly develops countermeasures, the watchword is **adapt faster than the adversary**.

As summarized by **Major Andrew Pingrey**, a veteran of Afghanistan:

"The armed forces of the future will probably not be larger, but they will need to be more lethal. And they will need to learn faster than their adversary."