The Pentagon Recruits Top Wall Street Talent: A New Era of US Defense

Published on 20/07/2026

Washington is changing its face. It's no longer just a matter of generals, tanks, or diplomacy. The Pentagon has decided to enter the field with the weapons of finance, launching an unprecedented recruitment campaign that seems straight out of a private equity office in Manhattan.

A “small army” in tailored suits

The Office of Strategic Capital (OSC) is undergoing a radical transformation. What started as a small group of five people is turning into a giant with 70 specialists ready to maneuver, invest, and direct over 200 billion dollars. They are not looking for soldiers, but “dealmakers”: experts from investment banks and private equity firms accustomed to handling multi-billion dollar transactions where every mistake can be costly.

“These are people who have accepted seven-figure pay cuts to do this job”, said David Lorch, director of the OSC and former Cerberus executive, highlighting the complex and strategic

nature of the operations.

Golden salaries for national security

To attract the best Wall Street talent, the Trump administration has raised the stakes. Thanks to an executive order, the government has cleared salaries that can reach 438,000 dollars a year for key positions. A figure that, although lower than the stellar bonuses of private finance, marks a paradigm shift: American industrial production capacity is now considered a national security priority equal to, if not greater than, troop training.

The goal: an industrial war machine

The mission is clear: to strengthen over 30 critical sectors, from semiconductors to telecommunications networks, to the refining of rare minerals necessary for the new era of warfare. The OSC no longer acts only as a supervisor but as a financial engine: 5 billion dollars have already been committed in direct loans, with another 14 billion in the pipeline.

While critics in Congress raise doubts about the scale of spending, one thing is certain: the line between New York's financial heart and Washington's corridors of power has dissolved. The Pentagon is not just buying weapons; it is financing the very structure that produces them, with the audacity of a banker and the vision of a strategist.