



Theory of Victory: NATO's Plan to Repel a Russian Attack with Drones and AI

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NATO is sharpening its **deterrence strategy** and preparing a next-generation military response to secure the **Alliance's eastern flank**. Entitled «**Theory of Victory**», the document was drafted by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, U.S. General **Alexus Grynkeuich**, and will be officially presented next **12 October in Poland**.

The plan envisages the operational scenario of a potential **Russian aggression** along the border line stretching **from Finland to Bulgaria**, via the **Baltic States** and **Poland**.

The plan's two phases: from the technological barrier to the counteroffensive

According to reports leaked through *Bloomberg*, the strategy developed by military leaders is structured around two key phases:

1. **The first high-tech response:** In the event of an incursion or attack, the initial defense would rely on a **barrage conducted by low-cost drones**, operated by a limited number of soldiers and guided by **artificial intelligence** for target identification.
2. **The «overwhelming» counteroffensive:** Once the initial assault had been contained, NATO would shift to a direct attack to **destroy Russian command-and-control centers**, overwhelming opposing forces in the field **rapidly and with crushing firepower**.

Strategic uncertainties and the nuclear specter

As these are confidential reports, several crucial questions remain open: estimates of **casualties**, the **units involved**, and the Kremlin's possible response.

NATO's strategy comes amid a tense geopolitical environment, as diplomacy continues to struggle. Last **1 October**, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** reiterated the threat of using **nuclear weapons** in the event of a direct conflict with NATO.

The European Union's move: the *Emergency Security Protocol*

While NATO plans its conventional military response, the European Union is taking action on the **hybrid warfare** front.

On Monday **28 September**, EU defense ministers began discussions to establish the **«Emergency Security Protocol»**: a common consultation mechanism — inspired by **Article 4 of NATO** — to coordinate countermeasures against:

- **Sabotage and arson;**
- **Cyber attacks;**
- **Airspace violations.**

This new mechanism will **complement NATO's warning systems**, allowing the 27 member states to exchange intelligence and agree on joint responses.

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