Ukraine: The Autonomous War Has Begun. Robots Capture the First Enemy Position.

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For the first time since the beginning of the conflict, Ukraine has marked a point of no return in modern military history: **a Russian position has been captured without the deployment of a single flesh-and-blood soldier**. The operation was conducted exclusively by a coordination of ground robots and drones.

The announcement came directly from President **Volodymyr Zelensky**, who described the action as a monumental shift:

> "*For the first time in the history of this war, an enemy position has been taken exclusively by unmanned platforms. The result? Russian soldiers surrendered, the action concluded without any Ukrainian losses and without infantry involvement.*"

Ukraine: The Counteroffensive Wears Down the Russian Initiative

The Numbers of Transformation

The success is not accidental, but the culmination of a strategy that sees Kyiv accelerating automation to compensate for the numerical imbalance with Russian forces.

- **22,000 interventions:** In the first three months of 2026 alone, robots have entered "red zones" in place of soldiers.
- **Droid TW-7.62:** An example of excellence. This system, equipped with **Artificial Intelligence**, is capable of autonomously tracking targets; by January, it had already captured three Russian soldiers.
- **Mission Control:** The new system launched to increase combat depth and coordination between machines.

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The Fedorov Doctrine: "More Machines, Fewer Men"

Behind this revolution is the vision of **Mykhailo Fedorov**, Minister of Digital Transformation. The goal is to transform the Ukrainian army into a low-cost but high-impact technological machine. The logic is brutally effective: **machines are expendable, men are not.**

The strategy is based on three fundamental pillars: the **integration of AI** to allow software to recognize targets without constant human intervention, the **mass production** of drones and robots on an industrial scale, and **rapid innovation cycles** to constantly overcome enemy electronic countermeasures.

A Leap Beyond Historical Precedents: The Evolution of the Battlefield

Although remote systems are not an absolute novelty, the Ukrainian operation on April 14 radically changes the paradigm of their use. In the past, **air drones (UAVs)** like the American *Reaper* were confined to surveillance and targeted strike tasks; today, Kyiv uses them for territory saturation and assault coordination.

Similarly, **ground robots (UGVs)**, which historically served for demining and exploration (think of the *PackBot* in Iraq), have evolved into combat machines capable of physically capturing and occupying territory. Even **loitering munitions**, once used for single-target attacks, are now employed in coordinated swarms to induce enemy surrender.

Until yesterday, technology served to **support** man; today, in Ukraine, technology has proven it can **replace** him in the most critical phase of combat: taking position.

https://twitter.com/Mylovanov/status/1942211645767336122?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etw

Implications for the Future

If confirmed in its operational details, this victory opens up unprecedented scenarios. The ability to force the enemy to surrender through algorithms and robotic tracks raises profound ethical questions, but for Kyiv, it represents the only path to survival: an asymmetric war where artificial intelligence fills the void left by flesh and blood.