Ukrainian Drones Annihilate a US Armored Brigade: The Lesson of Combined Resolve for Western Defense

Published on 14/08/2026

During the Combined Resolve exercise in Germany, the Ukrainian 412th Regiment “Nemesis” neutralized 3,500 soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division. The episode certifies the operational gap in the unmanned systems warfare and pushes the Pentagon to review its standards.

Analysis of the Operational Scenario

A specialized unit of the Ukrainian army literally routed an entire US armored brigade during the military simulation **Combined Resolve**, held between April and May in Germany. The operation offers a stark picture of the doctrinal and technological gap that separates Western armed forces from the reality of modern high-intensity warfare.

- **The forces involved:** About **3,500 American soldiers** belonging to the *3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team* of the *1st Cavalry Division* were tasked with attacking fortified positions. Defending the sector were the opposition forces of the training area, integrated and led by operators of the **412th Unmanned Systems Forces Regiment (known as "Nemesis")**.
- **The asymmetric factor:** Ukrainian drones systematically "eliminated" the US armored component thanks to a combination of advanced aerial reconnaissance and loitering munitions (**FPV**).

The Vulnerability of Heavy Vehicles

The test highlighted how the traditional doctrine of heavy armor is extremely fragile in the face of the battlefield transparency imposed by drones:

- **Visual traces:** The US tanks and combat vehicles, moving on the ground, raised large amounts of dust, making them immediately visible to Kiev's reconnaissance sensors.
- **Saturation tactics:** Spy drones were immediately followed by vectors simulating the launch of explosive charges and swarms of FPV drones ready for precision impact.
- **Logistical-tactical collapse:** The speed with which American armored vehicles were neutralized forced the exercise organizers to continuously reintegrate the destroyed vehicles as "new units" to allow the simulation to continue.

Adaptation and Training Breakthrough

Despite the initial shock, the two-week training allowed US troops to initiate a rapid tactical learning process:

- **Electronic countermeasures and camouflage:** As days passed, US units adopted countermeasures based on force dispersion, advanced visual and thermal concealment techniques, and the use of electronic warfare.
- **Role reversal:** Midway through the exercise, the 412th Regiment "Nemesis" switched sides, joining the Americans and transferring the necessary tactical know-how to integrate drone offensives into conventional armored maneuvers.

Strategic Considerations for NATO

The episode recorded in Germany is not an isolated case. Similar exercises conducted in Europe have regularly seen Ukrainian units prevail over British, Swedish, and other NATO country contingents.

For Defense commands, the conclusion is inevitable: the experience accumulated by Kiev in the three years of conflict against Russia is now the main testing ground for redefining engagement protocols, the production of C-UAS (Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems) systems, and the protection of large mechanized units in the contemporary geopolitical scenario.

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