

US Army Redefines Limits: 3D-Printed Electric Drone Flies 483 Kilometers in Desert

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Edwards Air Force Base — An extraordinary flight of **8 hours, 41 minutes and 43 seconds**, covering a distance of approximately **483 kilometers** (300 miles) in the scorching heat of the California desert. It is not merely a record of a category record shattered by fifty minutes, but a striking demonstration of how the U.S. military industry is radically changing course, accelerating domestic production and mobile manufacturing.

The feat took place at **Edwards Air Force Base** during the *Game of Drones 26-2* event, promoted through collaboration between the Experimental Test Force of the 412th Test Wing and the US-X unit of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). The star of the skies was a small remotely piloted aircraft (UAS) of **Group 1**, powered by two brushless direct current motors assembled entirely within the *Tobyhanna Army Depot* (in Pennsylvania).

From Digital Design to Flight in Less Than 24 Hours

Beyond the endurance data — whose official results have been submitted to *Guinness World Records* for final certification — what struck experts was the speed and resilience of the production chain.

The drone was born in record time:

- **Rapid Design:** less than ten minutes thanks to the use of adaptive software and prompts based on computer inputs.
- **Field Manufacturing:** completed in less than 24 hours within a containerized mobile workshop, leveraging commercial 3D printers.
- **Operational Assembly:** completed on-site by a small team of just three people before launch into the desert.



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The Strategic Objective: Autonomy and "Cybersecure" Supply Chain

"The *Game of Drones* demonstrated that industry and government can unite their forces creatively to achieve exceptional goals," said **Jon Strzelec**, head of the Army Materiel Command (AMC) for advanced manufacturing of small UAS.

This test represents the first true operational field trial for the motors coming from Tobyhanna's new production line, inaugurated on June 30th. Behind the technical specifications lies a far

broader strategic vision of the U.S. Army: to build a **national supply chain, secure and protected from cyber threats** (cybersecure) for engines, batteries, and aeronautical components.

Drastically reducing dependencies on foreign supply chains and accelerating access to DCMA's *Blue List* certifications are the pillars of the new *Drone Dominance* doctrine desired by the Pentagon, transforming rapid prototyping from a theoretical exercise into a concrete operational advantage for troops in the field.

News link: https://www.eurasiareview.com/22082026-motors-assembled-at-tobyhanna-army-depot-power-drone-to-world-record-flight/