



Mechernich: six passes over the only Patriot workshop in Europe

Six drone overflights in seven hours above the Bundeswehr site that repairs Patriot systems, sitting on a bunker 130 metres down. Police watched one. It circled above them.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Officially unattributed - no arrests, no claim, no suspect. Investigators found no indication of a civilian survey drone straying off course.

What Repeated overflights of a high-security logistics site. Police recorded six flights; the Bundeswehr confirmed two. A criminal case was opened for unauthorised photography.

Where Mechernich, North Rhine-Westphalia, 35 km from Belgium. Underground depot 130 m deep and 30,000 sq m; the Patriot-Werft, reportedly Europe's only such facility.

When Overnight into Friday 7 Aug 2026, between about 22:00 and 05:00.

Why No motive established. The target sustains European Patriot availability at a moment when interceptor supply is the stated constraint.

How Assessed as probably Foxtech Fly-380 VTOL - 3.8 m span, 400 km range, 10 kg payload. One drone circled above the responding officers.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

A Nov 2024: unattributed incursions over Lakenheath and Suffolk

B Autumn 2025: Evegnée overflights, detected but not engageable

C 4-5 Aug 2026: explosive drone on the apron at Leipzig/Halle

1 22:00: security begin logging flights over the compound

2 Police arrive; one drone circles above the officers

3 Military police observe an aircraft from about 40 m

4 No evidence of a stray survey drone; criminal case opened

5 Six flights reported; two officially confirmed

IMPACT

- Human: none. No damage, no injuries, no interference with operations reported.
- Intelligence: seven hours of passes over a fixed high-value site yields layout, access points, movement and the security response.
- Operational: a single point of repair for the air defence system on which Ukraine and several NATO states depend.
- Disclosure: police logged six flights, the Bundeswehr confirmed two. The gap invites the reading that the picture is worse than stated.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Target selection is the finding - whoever tasked these knew what Mechernich uniquely does.
- A drone loitering over responders is collecting reaction times, not roof photographs.
- An assessed 400 km range means the launch point need not be near the fence.
- It is almost certain that European military logistics sites continue to be overflown.