

## **Colonel Vadym Sukharevskyi (“Badger”)**

Commander, Unmanned Systems Forces of Ukraine (2024–2025)

- Led the world’s first dedicated unmanned military branch.
- Oversaw development, integration, and deployment of drone technologies across combat and intelligence missions.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of Ukraine (2024–2025)

Commander, 59th Motorized Infantry Brigade (2022–2024)

Chief of Staff, 35th Marine Brigade (2021–2022)

Commander, 503rd Marine Battalion (2016–2021)

Service in the Airborne Forces

Operation Iron Saber, Iraq (2004) – fought alongside U.S. forces against the Mahdi Army in Kut.

### Key Achievements

- **First Officer to Open Fire in Donbas (2014):** Under his command, Ukrainian forces first engaged Russian militants in eastern Ukraine.
- **Decorated War Hero:** Awarded the title Hero of Ukraine for leadership and valor during the 2022 phase of Russia’s war.
- **Pioneer of Drone Warfare:** As founding commander of Ukraine’s Unmanned Systems Forces, established doctrine, operations, and technologies that have since become central to modern warfare.
- **International Experience:** Combat and coordination with U.S. forces; deep knowledge of adversary tactics and technological competition.

### Expertise & Topics for Engagement

- **Creation of the Unmanned Systems Forces –** Why and how Ukraine built the world’s first dedicated unmanned branch.
- **Adversary Tactics & Capabilities –** Comparative analysis of Russian vs. Ukrainian strengths.
- **Multi-Domain Operations –** Integration of unmanned systems across combat, reconnaissance, and interception missions.
- **Key Systems & Technologies –** Practical insights into drones used by Ukrainian forces.
- **Operational Lessons –** Strengths and gaps in drone production and deployment, with comparisons to U.S. systems.

Vadym Sukharevskyi stands as one of Ukraine’s most innovative and decorated commanders, bridging frontline combat experience with pioneering leadership in modern unmanned warfare. He is currently serving as the Deputy Commander of Operational Command East in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.