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Separate Intensive Activity Service (SIAS)

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Considering the aggravation of the situation on the border of the country and the recent incident related to the accumulation of migrants on the border of Belarus with Poland, the role of the state border committee, and especially its special SIAS unit, has greatly increased.

A separate intensive activity service is a special unit of the border service of the Republic of Belarus, which specializes in combating terrorist activities and is perhaps the most closed and little-known special unit in the post-Soviet territory.

In the early nineties, there were only two border units, and about two thousand border violations occurred per day. To change this figure and restore order at the border on May 31, 1993, an SIAS unit was formed. During the first year of its existence, the officers identified fifteen channels of illegal activity at the border. According to their implemented operational materials, eleven leaders of criminal formations involved in human trafficking were brought to justice, a whole network of their accomplices was uncovered, and representatives of the Afghan and Pakistani criminal groups were caught red-handed.

To put it simply, the main task of SIAS is the implementation of the most complex tasks related to various kinds of offenses on the border of our homeland. In the media, the detachment is called both intelligence and counterintelligence of the Belarusian border troops. Despite the fact that this is a clear exaggeration, given the list of tasks to be solved, there is some truth in this. Depending on the

operational and military-political situation, they must be able to both repel an enemy offensive on the state border and destroy a reconnaissance sabotage group or landing force, release hostages, conduct active reconnaissance activities, and also detain criminals.

Taking into account the high requirements on the one hand and the huge prospects on the other, the basic screening to the unit can last up to two years. They select young officers from the State Border Committee, the State Security Committee, the Ministry of Defense and other law enforcement agencies. The training of SIAS fighters is located at the junction of the army and police special forces. The training system of this unit is based on a combination of knowledge and skills in action under extreme unpredictable conditions. To work on the border, it is necessary to master the organization of tactics, operational search activities, camouflage, tactical fire and sniper training, topography, and also have the highest physical fitness and moral stability.

Today, SIAS is a high-tech operational search and combat structure of the border service bodies capable of countering any threats to the border security of the Republic of Belarus. The service is armed with the most modern means of communication, special equipment, and weapons. It has all the necessary equipment for special operations. The number of units is estimated to 600 people. It is also worth noting that two eldest sons of the President of the Republic of Belarus served in a separate intensive activity service, which indicates the high prestige of this unit. The results of SIAS activity are really impressive. During the period of its activities, this unit has detained more than a thousand especially dangerous violators and more than six thousand illegal migrants. More than thirty units of firearms and blade weapons, about thirteen thousand ammunition, a large amount of psychotropic and narcotic substances were seized from illegal circulation.