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## **Interview of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia to Rossiyskaya Gazeta**



**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin, Head of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation: Following Western values do not have the best effect on the development of our society.**

The Investigative Committee of Russia is engaged not only in the investigation of criminal cases, but it also educates children, and also trains specialists to work in the Department. For the first time, the head of the ICRF revealed to Rossiyskaya Gazeta the details of who sits at a desk in his department and what the youth are taught there.

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**Mr. Alexander Ivanovich, in our country, at the state level, there was a decision taken to move away from the Bologna system of education. How is that important decision implemented in your department?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** This year I canceled admission to the master's program, this will help to strengthen the quality of departmental education. We continue to teach students within the specialist's program, which allows them to gain fundamental knowledge for five years, and then they continue to engage their scientific activities in Post Graduate Programme. In this case, we adhere to the traditions of domestic education. Indeed, as practice has shown, following Western traditions and values, including in the education, do not have the best effect on the development of our society and the younger generation.

In the West, education is regarded from the point of view of the educational services, and we, based on the interests of Russian society, are talking about the education of the individual, the formation of moral and ethical standards. These are completely different categories, and it emphasizes the future result and it determines who our graduate will be - a consumer of services or a person who thinks in fundamental categories and has a national identity. By the way, recently schools began to introduce lessons of patriotism, and we have been talking about this for a long time, and in our departmental educational institutions classes of courage and heroism are held on an ongoing basis, in the academies there is a discipline called "Fundamentals of military-patriotic training". It is included in the curricula.

**Nowadays, a very serious problem is widely discussed at various levels - how to resist the involvement of adolescents in radical organizations. Do you think the educational process must be upgraded in this regard?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** We counteract terrorism and extremism together with other law enforcement agencies.

Everyone understands the importance of preventing the involvement of young people in such illegal activities.

For this, certain steps are being taken. The Investigative Committee took the initiative to include in the federal state educational standards of higher education the requirements for the formation of a stable, intolerant attitude of students to manifestations of extremism and terrorism, the requirements for the formation of the ability to resist them in professional activities, namely, the inclusion of a new universal competence in educational standards.

The corresponding proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia.

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** Educational institutions of the Investigative Committee showed a high level of preparation for the beginning of the academic year. Now the educational system of our

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department includes: the Alexander Nevsky Cadet Corps of the IC RF in Moscow, the St. Petersburg Cadet Corps and the boarding school for pupils, the Volgograd Cadet Corps named after F.F. Slipchenko, the Sevastopol Cadet Corps named after V.I. Istomin, Moscow and St. Petersburg academies and five of their branches in Yekaterinburg, Khabarovsk, Rostov-on-Don, Novosibirsk and Nizhny Novgorod.

We have a strong teaching staff, consisting of scientists and practitioners, as well as a research and development base that allows us to perform all the main tasks.

At the same time, we are constantly looking for opportunities to improve learning conditions, we are restoring several buildings of the academy and the cadet corps in St. Petersburg, we are doing the construction in Peterhof, in Sevastopol, so in the near future, our cadets will also study in new buildings.

This year, 374 people were entered the cadet educational institutions, 228 people were enrolled in the academy of the Department. The students are ready to study full of optimism and determination.

We hope in the future they will come to serve in the Investigative Committee and become real professionals.

### **What is the system of departmental education of the Investigative Committee focused on?**

**Mr.Alexander Bastrykin:** Our system is built in such a way as to ensure the continuity of the educational process and the high quality of the knowledge gained.

We pay special attention to personnel training, the specificity of which is in a unified system of training and education of future officers on the traditions of serving the Motherland, capability to work effectively in conditions of high personal responsibility, to be responsible for the quality and consequences of decisions made.

Obtaining new knowledge, skills and abilities of officers, effective improvement of the personnel training system are the priority tasks of the department.

Two years ago, I approved the Concept of Continuous Departmental Education for the period up to 2025, and we continue to implement its provisions.

For cadets and students of academies, as well as officers of the Investigative Committee of Russia, the Concept is intended to become an incentive for development and self-realization in the system of the Investigative Committee, an increase in the level of professionalism, which will ultimately allow the solution of the tasks facing the Investigative Committee to a new qualitative level.

### **Please explain what is its essence?**

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**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** This document sets out the main objectives of the department's educational activities.

Particular attention is paid to strengthening the connection between theory and law enforcement practice, direct interaction between the teaching staff of educational institutions, students and investigative authorities, the use of practice-oriented methods in the educational process, ensuring prompt adaptation of information and methodological support of training programs to changes in the legislation of the Russian Federation.

We strive to ensure the constant professional growth of our officers.

We are talking about several stages of systematic training that make it possible to prepare the future specialist as efficiently as possible, and about the subsequent professional development: the cadet corps, then the academy, service in the investigative department, subsequent systematic professional growth.

Career guidance is aimed at ensuring that those who enter the cadet corps can continue their education in the academies in the future. From 2017 to 2022, 710 students graduated from the cadet corps of the Investigative Committee.

Every year the number of guys who want to become investigators, continuing their education in academies, increases.

If in 2017, after graduating from the cadet corps, only 6 graduates entered the Academy of the Department, then in 2022 - it was already 94 persons. That is, for the last five years we have seen a positive trend.

I would like to note that our system has implemented the preferential right of admission for graduates of the cadet corps of the Investigative Committee to the departmental academy.

Graduates of cadet educational institutions of the IC of Russia are awarded an additional 50 points upon admission to the Academy.

Besides, we provide access to education for orphans and those left without parental care, and to the children of deceased Officers.

**Could you be so kind and tell me, how many of such children enter the educational institutions of the Investigative Committee?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** We have established quotas, according to which 40 percent of children are recruited to our departmental academies in Moscow and St. Petersburg from among orphans and children left without parental care. In the cadet corps, this quota is 50 percent.

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This year, 238 children in need of social protection and support entered our educational institutions.

Also, in pursuance of the decree of the President of the Russian Federation, aimed at the social protection of children of military personnel and those, who participated, including those who died or were wounded during a special military operation, admission for children of this category to study was organized.

More than 10 people have already been enrolled in our academies and cadet corps, including the daughter of the deceased sergeant of the Russian Defense Ministry.

**Now one of the important points is education and adaptation of children who arrived from Donbas. Is the Investigative Committee involved in this process?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** The Investigative Committee took the initiative to accept children who arrived from the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics to educational organizations of law enforcement agencies and law enforcement agencies.

This proposal was supported by colleagues from other structures. We have already begun to implement it - this year 11 children of the DPR and LPR are enrolled in the academy of the Investigative Committee. Several more students are planned to be enrolled, after collecting the necessary documents. 43 children from the DPR were admitted to the cadet corps.

**Will many students go to serve as investigators after graduating from academies?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** All 100 percent of graduates will come to us. In 2022, 204 students graduated from the Moscow and St. Petersburg academies. All of them became investigators and serve their duties, they were distributed to 66 regions.

I want to note that in 2022, for the first time, 15 best graduates of our academies took part in the meeting of the President of the Russian Federation in the Moscow Kremlin in honor of graduates who graduated with honors from departmental educational organizations of higher education.

**How do you build the process of professional development for existing staff?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** At the moment, many advanced training programs have been implemented in our academies.

When we developed them, we proceeded from the real needs of practice and from the conditions in which investigators work. Therefore, every year all the data is updated and new programs are adopted, based on the types of crimes that our department will have to investigate.

For example, programs have recently been launched aimed at training in the investigation of crimes

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committed against the peace and security of mankind, including the use of banned means and methods of warfare, genocide, mercenarism, and acts of international terrorism.

We also consider the organization of training for experts and investigators specializing in the investigation of cybercrimes and crimes in the field of high technologies, including those involving the use of cryptocurrencies, as a promising direction.

I would like to note that the demand for additional professional education received in our academies is growing every year at the international level.

The Russian Investigative Committee closely cooperates with the republics of Belarus, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Abkhazia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan. All this strengthens interdepartmental cooperation.

In the future, we work on the issue of advanced training promotion in the Investigative Committee of law enforcement officers from the DPR and LPR.

**Not so long ago, several Federal TV channels showed stories about the students of your educational institutions who help veterans in hospitals. Was it their personal initiative or part of the general stream of the youth education department?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** This is my initiative, which was actively supported by colleagues and students. In Soviet times, there were student construction teams that educated young people in the spirit of respect for work. It is a very effective addition to the education system.

Now we have implemented the idea of labor semesters, which consists in the fact that cadets and students help people in their free time during the holidays. Departmental educational institutions of the IC of Russia have concluded a number of agreements with medical institutions.

Students, at their own request and with the consent of their parents, provide all possible assistance to medical personnel in the care of veterans undergoing treatment, as well as military personnel who have received injuries.

Parents are grateful to us that their children are engaged in important and useful work, and do not go to entertainment establishments from an excess of free time. And for the guys it is, no doubt, a very useful life experience.

**How does the Investigative Committee cooperate with other departments and organizations in matters of education?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** Within an agreement with the Russian Ministry of Defense, the joint participation of children from both departments in various educational events was organized.

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For example, our students took part in the All-Army Scientific and Practical Conference "Zhukovskiye Readings - 2022", the International Olympiad in Military History and Military Geography.

There is a corresponding agreement with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, in educational organizations of which our staff is annually trained, including additional professional programs in the field of conducting various kinds of examinations, in the field of forensic science, as well as in the field of combating crimes committed by use of information, telecommunication and high technologies.

Currently, we are working on concluding similar agreements with the National Guard and the Russian Emergencies Ministry.

In addition, we are implementing a number of educational projects in this direction. Among them there are: "The Patriots of the Fatherland", "My future profession is an investigator", "Hero of my family, hero of my country", "Great names of Russia: Alexander Nevsky - a symbol of feat of arms and spiritual unity", "Peter the Great in the history of the Russian state".

Some of them have become interdepartmental and unite children not only of our department, but also of the Russian Ministry of Defense, the Russian Emergencies Ministry, the Russian Ministry of Justice, the National Guard and other law enforcement agencies and law enforcement agencies and serve to form a common worldview of young people, to preserve and increase the traditions of serving the Fatherland.

So, for example, 1171 students from 120 educational organizations of the Russian Federation participated in the project of the Investigative Committee dedicated to Peter I.

The implementation of such educational projects contributes to the development of children's interest in gaining knowledge, improving patriotic education and professional orientation of the younger generation to serve the Motherland.

I also want to dwell on the significant work carried out within the cooperation agreement concluded between the Investigative Committee and the All-Russian Public and State Educational Organization "Russian Society" Knowledge".

Every year we jointly hold many educational events with participation of both: the staff and the students. Every year this interaction grows wider.

This year, joint events were held on various topics. The peculiarities of the investigation of certain types of crimes, as well as other topics, including the prevention of falsification of events in national history, the history of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War, were discussed.

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Cadets and students of the Investigative Committee participate in the All-Russian online game "League of Knowledge", teachers of the academies became winners and prize-winners of the League of Lecturers competition.

Currently, together with the society "Knowledge", the boarding school is preparing a historical mini-reconstruction of the Petrovsky assemblies.

**And how do you implement the experience of veterans of the investigation in the learning process?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** Great help in the spiritual and patriotic education of children is provided by our veterans of the investigating authorities.

Among them there are representatives of the Presidium of the National Association of Organizations of Veterans of Investigative Bodies "Union of Veterans of Investigation", regional councils of veterans of investigative bodies. Members of the veterans' organization annually take part in the public selection committees of our educational institutions during the admission campaign.

Mr. Alexander Ivanovich Kolotushkin takes an active part in the education of students of the Volgograd Cadet Corps of the Investigative Committee named after F.F. Slipchenko. He is a veteran of the Great Patriotic War, a reserve colonel, a participant in the Victory Parade on June 24, 1945.

In addition, the descendants of brave heroes actively participate in the life of our cadets and students, for example, the great-great-grand-nephew of the Hero of the First Defense of Sevastopol, Rear Admiral Vladimir Ivanovich Istomin - Mr. Oleg Igorevich Filimonov, daughter of Marshal of the Soviet Union Konev I.S. - Ms. Koneva N.I., grandson of Marshal of the Soviet Union Govorov L.A. - Mr. Govorov A.S.

They are regular guests of our educational organizations, participants in thematic "class hours", in which they talk about the heroic deeds of our ancestors.

Our comrades, who, unfortunately, are no longer with us, serve as a real example of devotion to their work for the guys.

Mr. Viktor Vasilyevich Naydenov is also among such people; he is a legend of the Soviet investigation. By my decision, the departmental scholarship is named after him, which is annually assigned to 12 students who have distinguished themselves in professional training, research work, sports, cultural and volunteer activities.

In the academies of the Investigative Committee, the creation of nominal auditoriums in honor of prominent statesmen and military figures, prominent investigators and scientists was organized. So, the opening of nominal auditoriums in honor of: Mr. V.V. Naydenov, Mr. R.S. Belkin, Mr. Yu.I.



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**In what direction do you plan to develop your education system in the near future?**

**Mr. Alexander Bastrykin:** We continue to develop an interactive departmental educational platform as part of the implementation of the Strategy for the digital transformation of the science and higher education sector in the Investigative Committee.

Taking into account the practical needs and the criminal situation, we continue the further development of specializations for the training of investigators at the senior courses of the academies.

In particular, the issue of introducing such a profile as "Forensic support for the investigation of crimes" within the framework of the specialty program "Legal support of national security" is being worked out.

Taking into account the growth of crimes in the field of information and communication technologies, this profiling will be aimed at training specialists to counter them, who are able to work with digital information carriers and use the latest achievements in working with "big data".

Such specialists will be able to collect process and analyze forensically significant information at a high level for the subsequent adoption of effective decisions during the investigation of crimes.

It is necessary to continue active scientific activity, including the development of scientific research, the development of scientific schools. The high scientific potential will allow us to more effectively investigate crimes related to our jurisdiction.

In addition, among the tasks for the near future are the development and implementation of relevant practice-oriented programs for improving the skills of employees of the Russian Investigative Committee, improving the system for improving the skills of personnel reserves at all levels with the organization of effective internships for senior positions.

We strive to ensure that our graduates are able to apply the acquired knowledge and skills in practice and while facing standard and non-standard professional situations.

At the same time, they must possess high moral qualities and a sense of patriotism.

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