

## Drones – present and future

Ensuring reliable protection of the state border by the units of the State Border Guard Service requires constant monitoring of the development of science and technology. Over the last five to seven years, unmanned systems of various types have been actively developed and used for various purposes. The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGSU) is not lagging behind in scientific and technical progress and is actively using unmanned systems to combat overflights across the state border, as well as to detect and apprehend offenders.



The SBGSU performs tasks in the field of combating illegal migration and smuggling across the western section of the state border. While Ukraine is in a state of war, SBGSU, in collaboration with the armed forces, is actively reclaiming Ukrainian

territories along its northern, eastern, and southern borders from aggressor occupation by Russia, utilizing drones to counter armed aggression.

It is also important to note that unmanned systems are not only used by border guards. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have also long been used by illegal elements to illegally move people and contraband across the border.



Recently, therefore, border guards have had to focus on finding effective ways to combat UAVs. Thanks to the help of many Ukrainians and active involvement of Western allies, the border guards have been able to implement a large number of countermeasures against UAVs.



Currently, the Border Guard units of Ukraine use a wide range of means, resulting in an increasing number of successful border patrols actions. Below you can find the example of an incident that took place on the state border of Ukraine.

At 06.00 p.m., the head of the shift of the border patrols of the Kamianica Border Guard Department received a report from the border patrol stating that an undocumented Ukrainian citizen was detected and detained 50 metres from the border fence. During the detention, the border guards observed a group of unknown Asian men and women with children who fled to a remote part of the site when border patrol tried to apprehend them. The commander of the guard unit subsequently decided to launch a search operation in the area.

In order to ensure maximum effectiveness of search actions, it is necessary to organize them in the shortest time possible, thus ensuring the minimum search area, as well as to take measures to prevent the movement of perpetrators. To ensure this, an operator with a drone was deployed to effectively monitor the site and locate the perpetrators, who were subsequently apprehended.



As a result of further coordinated actions by the drone operator and Border Patrol agents, sixteen Asian foreigners (fourteen males and two females) were located and apprehended 2,400 meters from the border.

The Border Guard is not only actively involved in the fight against Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, but also continues to successfully combat the movement of illegal migrants, actively using aircraft on the western border with the European Union, including with the help of their western partners.