

Putin congratulates Special Operations Forces on their professional holiday

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Online Desk: Russia's Special Operations Forces act courageously and decisively in the most dangerous areas of the special military operation and they have proven their readiness to defend the country's interests anywhere globally, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a video message posted on the Kremlin's Telegram channel on the occasion of Special Operations Forces' Day.

"Congratulations on your professional holiday: Special Operations Forces' Day. I thank all the personnel and veterans for their honest, conscientious military service and personal courage, for their loyalty to their oath and duty," the Russian leader said. "Special words of gratitude to the soldiers who participate in the special military operation. You fulfil your tasks with honor and act courageously, competently, and decisively in the most dangerous areas, on the front line, deep behind enemy lines, and in raids and rapid attacks," he added.

According to Putin, "Special Operations Forces' units have proven in practice that they are ready, at the first order, to defend the Motherland and protect Russia's national interests anywhere in the world." High qualities and special training have always distinguished the soldiers and commanders of the Special Operations Forces, the head of state emphasized. Thus, they protected the people of Crimea and Sevastopol against the threats of nationalists and punitive forces, performed brilliantly in the fight against terrorism in Syria, as they are showing examples of heroism and courage in battles against neo-Nazis today, he maintained.

Commenting on the decision to create the Russian Special Operations Forces dating back to the 2008 military reform, Putin said that "was dictated by the times and the need to effectively respond to new challenges." He lauded the forces for worthily going through baptism of fire, and becoming a powerful striking force of the Russian Army.

Special Operations Forces' Day has been an official holiday in Russia since 2015.