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TACTICAL OPERATIONS: SWAT

The main functions and tasks

- storm barricaded buildings and vehicles;
- breach locks and other structures;
- arrest armed and dangerous criminals;
- rescue hostages;
- patrol areas and provide security;
- stop fleeing cars.

History build

Team S.W.A.T was founded in 1968 by Los-Angeles police inspector Deril Geitson for riot control or violent confrontations with gunmen on the streets of the city. The first Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) Unit consisted of 15 four-man teams. Members of each team, who volunteered from the ranks of patrol and other police assignments, had specialized experience and prior military service. Each unit was activated for monthly training. These units, known as "station defense teams" .In 1971, the SWAT personnel were assigned on a full-time basis to Metropolitan Division to respond to continuing action by subversive groups, the rising crime rate and the continuing difficulty of mustering a team response in a timely manner. It was called Special Weapons and Tactics cause the police of United States, that combat with different difficult crimes, use special tactics knowledge and special fast, hard and silent weapon to protect terrorism and to keep people in safe.

Training

Members of a S.W.A.T team are law enforcement agents who work full-time positions. Because of the nature of the job they work all day, all night in the evening, night, and weekend. She or he must be physically fit and able to handle stressful, life-threatening situations. S.W.A.T agents must be comfortable working with a wide range of weapons and carry a firearm.

Necessary Skills and Qualities

A police officer who wishes to join SWAT must have an excellent physical fit, eye sight, hear and health. Candidates must also be able to pass a rigorous psychological interview that tests their suitability for service in a high-stakes environment. Other desirable qualities include emotional stability, physical courage and the ability to make quick decisions under stress. Because SWAT units operate as a close-knit team, strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

SWAT officers are selected from volunteers within their law-enforcement organization. Depending on their department's policy, officers generally must serve a minimum tenure within the department before being able to apply for a specialist section such as SWAT. This tenure requirement is based on the fact that SWAT officers are still police officers and must have a thorough knowledge of department policies and procedures.

Applicants must pass different written and psychological testing to ensure that they are not only fit enough but also psychologically suited for tactical operations.

Officers are trained in marksmanship for the development of accurate shooting skills. Other training that could be given to potential members includes training in explosives, sniper-training, defensive tactics, first-aid, negotiation, handling, [rappelling](#) and roping techniques and the use of specialized weapons and equipment. They may also be trained specifically for example at night, with rain falls (під час туману, в спеку, в місцях з обмеженою видимістю) and use of special ammunition such as [bean bags](#), flash bang grenades, [tasers](#), and the use of crowd control methods, and special [non-lethal](#) munitions.

Career Requirements :

Education Level	High school diploma; graduation from police academy, some college coursework may be required
Degree Field	Criminal justice, law enforcement or a related field
Licensure and/or Certification	State driver's license
Experience	At least three years of law enforcement or military experience
Key Skills	Physically fit, strong stamina and strength, good judgment, ability to multi-task and strong perceptiveness; basic computer skills, firearms training, self-defense skills, first aid; U.S. citizen, at least age 21, no felony, domestic violence or assault convictions, pass medical, drug and written tests, oral and psychological exam, hiring board review

SWAT equipment

SWAT personnel wear similar [utility uniforms](#) to the tactical uniforms worn by the [military](#). Many police departments have diverged from the original standard black or blue uniforms, and SWAT uniforms now include plain military green and camouflage patterns.

Originally SWAT units were equipped with WWII-surplus steel helmets, or even fiberglass motorcycle helmets. Modern SWAT units commonly use the standard [US military helmet](#). [Fire retardant balaclavas](#) are often used to protect the face, as well as to protect the identity of team members.

While a wide variety of weapons are used by SWAT teams, the most common weapons include submachine guns, carbines, assault rifles, shotguns, and sniper rifles.

Tactical aids include [flash bang](#), [stinger](#), and [tear gas](#) grenades.

The 9mm [Heckler / Koch MP5](#) submachine gun used to be the mainstay of most SWAT teams, Semi-automatic pistols are the most popular sidearms. Common sniper rifles used are [M14 rifle](#) and the [Remington 700P](#). Many different variants of bolt action rifles are used by SWAT, including limited use of [.50 caliber](#) sniper rifles for more intense situations. To breach doors quickly, [battering rams](#), shotguns with breaching rounds, or explosive charges can be used to break the lock or hinges, or even demolish the door frame itself. SWAT teams also use many non-lethal munitions and weapons. These include [Tasers](#), [pepper spray](#) canisters, shotguns loaded with bean bag rounds, [«Pepper-ball»](#) guns, [stinger grenades](#), flash bang grenades, and [tear gas](#). Ballistic shields are used in close quarters situations to provide cover for SWAT team members and reflect gunfire. «Pepper-ball» guns are essentially [paint ball](#) markers loaded with balls containing [Oleoresin Capsicum](#) ("pepper spray").

SWAT units may also employ ARVs, (Armored Rescue Vehicle) for insertion, maneuvering, or during tactical operations such as the rescue of civilians/officers pinned down by gunfire. Helicopters may be used to provide aerial reconnaissance or even insertion via rappelling or [fast-roping](#).

Reference list

1. <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cirg/tactical-operations>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal Bureau of Investi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigati)

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