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**POLICING IN THE UNITED STATES: SPECIAL POLICE  
UNIT SWAT**

Policing in the United States is one of three major components of the criminal justice system, along with courts and corrections.

Although there is an inherent interrelatedness between the different groups that make up the criminal justice system based on their crime deterrence purpose, each component operates independently from one another.

Apart from maintaining order and service functions, the purpose of policing is the investigation of suspected criminal activity and the referral of the results of investigations and of suspected criminals to the courts. Law enforcement, to varying degrees at different levels of government and in different agencies, is also commonly charged with the responsibilities of deterring criminal activity and of preventing the successful commission of crimes in progress; the service and enforcement of courts orders; providing first response to emergencies and other threats to public safety; the protection of certain public facilities and infrastructure; the maintenance of public order; the protection of public officials; and the operation of some correctional facilities (usually at the local level).

In the United States, there are an estimated 17,784 law enforcement agencies, spread out across the federal, state, and local levels of government. Policing and law enforcement services are mainly the jurisdiction of local government, with an estimated 12,666 local police agencies and 3,070 sheriffs departments. Local police include county police, metropolitan police, city, and town police departments. In addition, there are 1,376 special-purpose district police agencies, with jurisdiction over parks, schools, housing, transit, etc.

US police has a lot of experience in the work of extremely difficult tasks of combating organized crime. There are several special units to perform them, for example, DELTA, SEAL, HTR (Hostage Rescue Team), COBRA etc. One of the most famous and worthwhile of such specialized units is SWAT.

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) is an American unit in law enforcement activity using light weapons and special army-type tactics in high risk operations, which require skills and knowledge that go beyond the capabilities of ordinary policemen.

The history of SWAT started in the 1960s. First created to handle with criminals, Los Angeles SWAT unit for the first time

found a broad public popularity through farming operations in the neighborhood Delano (CA).

A policeman John Nelson was the father of the idea of creating a specially trained and equipped unit consisting LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department). Its objective was to response and resolve critical situations with shooting while minimizing losses by the police. The first SWAT unit consisted of fifteen teams of four persons in every one. The total number staff was 60 persons. Every members of staff has his special order status, rank and receive special prizes. Within a month they passed special training. During the riot police squad was in charge to guard the state facilities, such as the White House, Supreme Court, US Congress and others.

Now SWAT has following tasks to perform its functions: release of hostages;  
providing perimeter security against snipers during visits of government officials;  
greater firepower in certain situations; counter-terrorism operations in US cities; solving situations with people who barricaded themselves (specially created unit Hostage Barricade Team);  
stabilization of the suicide situation characterized by a high risk;  
providing support for raids against drug arrests by judicial warrant searches of suspects;  
providing support for special events;  
stabilization of dangerous situations when faced with criminals (such as racists, serial killers, gangsters); fighting with street riots.

SWAT teams use equipment designed for a variety of specialist situations including close-quarters combat (CQC) in an urban environment.

SWAT personnel wears similar utility uniforms to the tactical uniforms worn by the military. SWAT uniforms now include plain military green and camouflage patterns: steel helmets fire retardant balaclavas ballistic vests

The most common weapons include submachine guns, carbines, assault rifles, shotguns, and sniper rifles. Additional and supporting measures are usage of police dogs, flashbang grenades and grenades with tear gas. For quick break doors battering rams, shotguns on crack charges, explosive packages can be used.

SWAT units employ Armored Rescue Vehicle. Helicopters can be used for aerial reconnaissance and even assault combating. To avoid detection suspects during operations in urban SWAT teams can use modified buses, vans, trucks and other vehicles that look like regular cars.

Specialized police forces are created to perform the most difficult and risky tasks to provide law and order. The experience of SWAT operation shows that this unit was used to do its best.

### **Список використаних джерел:**

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## **THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF ORGANISED CRIME COMBATING**

Transnational organized crime is considered one of the main threats to the security of each individual, and affects the social, economic, political and cultural development of people all over the world. This multilateral phenomenon is observed in different types of activity: drug trafficking, human trafficking, illegal weapon turnover and money laundering. Drug trafficking is one of the main activities of organized criminal groups, bringing huge profits. Transnational organized crime by nature is a global danger, posing a threat, not only to some countries, but also to the global community. Therefore