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SWAT UNITS IN US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

SWAT units in US law enforcement agencies that use light weapons of the army type and special tactics in high-risk operations, which require capabilities and skills that go beyond the capabilities of ordinary policemen.

Tasks of SWAT: rescue of hostages; security perimeter against snipers during government visits; providing superior firepower in some situations, including against barricaded suspects; salvation of police and civilians caught under fire; counter-terrorist operations in US cities; resolution of situations characterized by high risk with a minimum of deaths, injuries and property damage; resolution of situations with barricaded individuals (for this purpose, the Hostage Barricade Team was specially created); stabilization of high-risk situations with suicides; providing support for raids against the drug mafia, arrests on a court warrant, searches of suspects; providing support for special events; stabilization of dangerous situations in the face of criminals (such as racists, serial killers, gangsters); fight against street riots.

Staff SWAT, although ready to call, but most of the time spent in regular patrols. To reduce the response time in the event of serious situations requiring direct SWAT intervention, now the method of placing equipment and weapons SWAT in the protected boxes of special police jeeps is widely used. This is needed by the sheriffs, in view of the large size of their districts and the tight traffic in Los Angeles. LAPD uses jeeps already equipped with police, as they may not be in time to return to police buildings when called (although in the event of a difficult situation they may need more heavy weapons

SWAT policemen are recruited from volunteers from their own organizations to enforce the law. Depending on the policy pursued by the department, candidates must serve a minimum term

in the ranks of the department before being recognized as suitable for special departments such as SWAT. This requirement for a term of office is based on the fact that the SWAT police are still law enforcement officers and must have a thorough knowledge of the policies pursued by departments and police procedures.

Candidates for the SWAT squad are carefully selected and trained. Candidates must undergo a test of physical dexterity, oral, written and psychological testing to prove that they are not only physically fit, but also psychologically fit for combat operations.

Particular attention is paid to physical training, since the policeman must be prepared for the hardships of military operations. After the selection, the potential employee must undergo numerous courses that will turn him into a fully qualified SWAT fighter. The police train in marksmanship to develop the skill of thorough shooting. Other training that can be taught to a potential employee is work with explosives, sniper training, defensive tactics, first aid, negotiation, handling of service dogs, climbing and descent techniques, use of special weapons and ammunition. Employees can undergo specialized training in the handling of rubber bullets, lighttoothed grenades, the use of crowd control techniques and special non-lethal ammunition. The main emphasis is on preparing for close combat, as this will be the main task of the SWAT employee.

The SWAT team dress is designed for a variety of special situations, including close combat in an urban environment. The types of equipment vary among detachments, but in general there are constant trends.

List of references:

1. The Rise of the SWAT Team in American Policing / [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа: <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/08/us/the-rise-of-the-swat-team-in-american-policing.html>
2. When More is less—SWAT and Procedural Justice / [Электронный ресурс]. - Режим доступа: <https://scholarlycommons.law.wlu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1428&context=crsj>