

# FEATURES IN THE TRAINING OF MILITARY UNITS OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

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**Abstract:** *Much has been said and wrote during the past year on how best the international community must oppose the expansion of geography of international terrorism. The growth of terrorism to such an unprecedented scale requires the intergration of the forces of the whole civilized world to fight it. For the successful implementation of this struggle is necessary to use all possible means: political, economic, legal and military. This imposes the implementation of a specialized training program of Bulgarian Special Operations Forces.*

**Keywords:** TERRORISM, SPECIAL OPERATION FORCES, SPECIAL TRAINING

## Introduction

Much has been said and wrote during the past year on how best the international community must oppose the expansion of geography of international terrorism.

In his speech at the NATO-Russia conference in Moscow on December 9, 2002, NATO Secretary General George Robertson, said:

"[... Many analysts stressed the importance of non-military tools such as freezing terrorist finances; coordination of policing; tightened border controls; better inspection activities of cross-border transport of containers and improve intelligence sharing. Let us not doubt at all the correctness of these analyzes. Non-military means and tools are critical to victory in this fight and ignoring them will lead to failure of our efforts.

But the military also have a role to play in this fight ... - NATO must also be ready to act in support of the efforts of the international community against terrorism ..... To meet these requirements NATO makes concrete and quick steps to modernization of its armed forces ..... NATO is about to become more effective partner in the international community's response to the threats of the 21st century ..... ].

### 1 Role, and tasks of the special operations forces in combating terrorism.

The growth of terrorism to such an unprecedented scale requires the integrations of the forces of the whole civilized world to fight it. For the successful implementation of this struggle is necessary to use all possible means: political, economic, legal and military.

A. The role of the military in particular of Special Operations Forces in this fight in the words of Mr. Robertson in his speech of December 9, is determined by:

FIRST [..... fade border clear separation of the terrorism war. Today's terrorism aims to cause mass casualties and in this situation weapons of mass destruction (WMD) with increasingly more likely to fall into the hands of terrorists ..... ].

SECOND [..... reduces the difference between internal and external security. We used to provide external security as we have tanks on the borders, leaving security inside in the hands of the police. Henceforth should not rely entirely on such a division of power. Terrorists can slip unnoticed into our communities and using our openness to carry out massive attacks, prevent that require military force, or the consequences are such that they can be managed only by military ..... ].

THIRD [..... sometimes it is not possible to protect citizens from terrorist attacks if we use only defense measures. To respond or prevent apparently imminent attack, it may be necessary deployment of military forces against terrorist networks.

For the above reasons, the military had a significant role in the international campaign against terrorism. Over the past century the tasks of territorial defense are obsolete and can not be applied. What is needed is a radical change of idea what to do military to effectively meet new challenges .....]

Given the specificity of the anti-terrorism Special Operations Forces of the Army with its unique characteristics - effective, modular, compact, maneuverable, combat-capable, independent and comprehensive relatively provided so they should be determined to play an important role in counter-terrorism operations, conducted by units of the Army.

Counter-terrorism, directly or indirectly, involved all national and regional offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bulgaria. Conducting operations for suppressing terrorist activities in the country is primarily responsibility of the squad to combat terrorism and the specialized units of the national services "Combating Organized Crime", "Gendarmerie", "Border Police" and State Agency for National Security. Usually these structures first respond to signal a terrorist act and conduct initial events to control the situation.

In time of escalation of the crisis, to limit and prevent its expansion and neutralization of significant composition terrorist groups it will be used units of the armed forces, including units from BUSOF, which determines the place and role of these kinds of forces in the building of the anti-terrorism forces of our country.

This place is regulated by Article 49 of the Military Doctrine and Article 68 of the Law on Defence and Armed Forces, according to which in peacetime in declaring a state of emergency, in particular aircraft and BUSOF perform the task of assisting security native authorities in the fight themselves against the spread of weapons of mass destruction, illegal arms trafficking, international terrorism, protecting strategic critical infrastructure facilities, operations to limit terrorist acts. In this type of operation, it is expedient to use in addition the structures of the Service "Security – Military Police and Military Counter- intelligence " of the Military Armed Forces which have functions similar to the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as and BUSOF units.

Their specificity, specific personnel, its great quality and defined training suggest their designation as part of Bulgarian Armed Forces with increased combat capability and capacity to perform the tasks of this kind. Their hi mobility facilitates short-term deployment in crisis regions. Readiness for autonomous action of the units makes them the most appropriate unit of the Bulgarian Army to conduct such operations.

C. In his speech of 9 December Mr. Robertson three essential

tasks of armed forces in particular and Special Operation Forces in their fight against terrorism.

[..... FIRST - Counterterrorism: defensive measures to reduce vulnerability to attacks against the population, territory, infrastructure and information and communication systems.

SECOND - prevention of terrorist attacks, offensive measures to reduce, prevent, deter terrorist activities.

And third - management of the entire set of activities to deal with the consequences of terrorist attacks: mitigation and stabilization of the situation after such attacks in support of civilian authorities.

To build security need something more than "perfect" plans and diagrams. What you need are opportunities and possibilities it right. What does this mean? Means the ability to move units quickly to prevent, defend or protect against terrorist attacks. With light mobile podrazdeleniya.S effective air and sea transport.S modern command, control, communications and intelligence and modern military capabilities .....

..... Is not rare, even when properly formulated order to eradicate terrorism, when the use of inappropriate military units due to lack of specialized training may be no-effect and even counterproductive. ....

..... Is therefore necessary to develop a rapid response force that can be sent very quickly, where necessary, either to conduct an attack or to respond to such with A compact and more flexible structure suitable for missions detection, prosecution and maintenance of the new security environment. Creation of mobile, well-trained and equipped modern armed forces is extremely important in the fight against terrorism and modern security challenges .....

..... But above all, this means carrying out the necessary preparation of military units aimed at tackling new tasks. They should be trained to interact with the executive bodies of civilian authority, respect the rights and keep the trust of the population to be defenders of order, peacekeepers and simultaneously fighters .....

From the foregoing, so far as I can responsibly say that Special Operation Forces, with their specific structure and mobility, their versatile training opportunities for variability and flexibility by their use are closest to those requirements.

The training of Special Operation Forces (SOF) for participation in operations in combating terrorism is linked to the performance of specific missions and tasks. Should therefore be carried out targeted training, both in the middle of studying the occurrence, goals and objectives of terrorist organizations and their assets and practices for implementation of terrorist acts and to conduct training of personnel and SOF units to perform specific missions and tasks such as: intelligence (detection), monitoring and neutralization of terrorist leaders and formations; security of VIP and strategic sites of national and military significance for the security of the country; restraint or seclusion of endangered areas; safety and

prevent the spread of rumors and panic among the population; application of direct strikes against terrorist infrastructures to neutralize them or release of hostages.

## **2.Features in the training of military units of special operations forces in the fight against terrorism.**

For successful implementation of tasks related to combating terrorism personnel of military special operations forces should have a good overall physical endurance and mental sustainability to be able to use hand to hand combat fighting techniques; to camouflage themselves and be able to use the hidden and cover areas of the field, to know to perfection armament, special equipment and technical equipment; to conduct special tactical maneuvers to combat terrorist organizations.

### **A. Physical training.**

Neutralize terrorists requires the possession of a number of attributes such as speed, agility and endurance. Speed is necessary for rapid movement, agility to overcome various obstacles such as fences, stairs, rails, ditches, holes and other. Resilience is a guarantee that, despite all attempts terrorists will be pursued long enough to be neutralized. The possession of these qualities from soldiers from SOF is provided for the successful neutralization of terrorists. That is why the classes in physical training as well as classes in tactical and special training should pay attention to these specify elements and soldiers from SOF to constantly maintain its as a good physical shape.

Neutralize of the terrorists required physical attributes than those listed, and drills up and down rope training to overcome higher obstacles. Similar physical skills and habits are invaluable when necessary hidden to take certain position or take unexpected activities.

### **B. Hand combat fighting techniques**

Knowing the techniques of military hand to hand combat fighting techniques of Special Operation Forces SOF is also one of the conditions for successful completion of the disarming and detention in neutralizing terrorist procedures. In principle, the implementation of such techniques to the greatest extent practicable, when a person is armed with stab knife, ax, and so on. If he is armed with a firearm, the implementation of hand combat fighting techniques disposal techniques and detention can be place only in appropriate situations, for example in a limited space, a short distance (step two) and others.

To be sure personnel that can resolve with such a situation, it is necessary to carry out exactly certain training in martial combat hand to hand fights, where to acquire and to confirm all these conditions. Likely to fall into a similar situation is great, so martial arts are part of the overall training of soldiers by SOF in the absorption of actions to neutralize the terrorists.

### **C. Shooting training.**

Ability to shoot quickly and accurately is a key element in the preparation of the personnel from BUSOF. The use of personal weapon during of a neutralization of terrorists is likely. That's why the shooting training plays an important role in counterfeiting, and in particular the keeping of their lives.

The use of arms is a last resort and is only allowed in exceptional cases where all other measures have been unsuccessful or when it is impossible to take other measures, depending on the situation. When neutralizing terrorists, SOF soldiers must be mentally and physically ready to use weapons, otherwise they or others may become the victims of terrorist act.

During the neutralization of terrorists there are may be circumstances that require open a fire. The shooting, which may be necessary to keep soldiers from SOF, is divided mainly into three groups- fast, instinctive and defensive.

Fast shooting have to be kept the approach to terrorists when they have to be neutralized in case they have revealed the intentions and opened fire. Training in fast shooting was held for the acquisition habits in keeping the fire from the right position or slightly crouched. Also kneeling, prone, and behind disguises, making short runs to insure better opportunity for fire.

Instinctive shooting is as we call for survival. Training of instinctive shooting is conducted on quite short distance (2-7 m).

Defensive shooting is led by one or two members of the SOF group . This training aims to acquire the habit of maintaining to members of fire group who perform immediately task to perform neutralization. Its training is the ability to use long-barreled rifles weapon type "pump" machines, sniper rifles and more.

Requirements arising from actions in neutralizing terrorists to shooting skills of servicemen from SOF are great. Therefore programs for shooting training must include various kind of shooting to ensure maximum level of the shooting skills of soldiers, which will lead to ensure maximum safety for them and others if similar situations occur. Furthermore, in the training must be considered and the following features:

- Keeping coolness under all circumstances;
- Ability to conduct rapid and efficient shooting at limited visibility - night, snow, rain, fog, dark room and other condition;
- To achieve a good balance between speed and accuracy of shooting;
- Ability to conduct a fast shooting with movement with brief stops;
- To achieve automatic skills of personal weapon protection in physical contact with the detainee with subsequent immediate use - shooting at close range;
- Safe handling of weapons in compliance with all safety measures and to save the lives of the people around him ;
- A will to eliminate the opponent, regardless of the situation;
- A knowledge of the dynamics of the firefight in which the danger for life is great;
- A knowledge of tactics for proper movement and camouflage ukri-vane to reduce the efficacy of protiv-nikovoto resistance and the likelihood of his goal;
- Applying different techniques to deceive the opponent about their own source of action.

The soldier from SOF is must be the most adaptable fighting machine that was invented today, but also the most demanding, with regard to providing it with outfits and weapons. They may be his best ally (friend), but may also become his enemy.

Equipment and armament (individual and collective) of special operations group (teams) should be as good as possible and not interfere with the mobility of the personnel. They should allow for long-term residence under all weather conditions, to assist the actions of Fighters in all extreme situations, day and night.

Technical sources to be able, timely and accurate, to reveal the existence and location of the targets and objectives, to be able to provide reliable connection inside the detachment and with senior staff, to enable reporting of the obtained information in real time in short terms. And do not be influenced by the characteristics of the relief.

The successful solution of the outcome of the fight against terrorist formations played an essential role ability of personnel in proper selection and best equipment of main and reserve operating bases. These bases are generally selected, equipped and concealed (hidden) in military areas (barracks), police stations or other suitable for this purpose facilities occupied by the local military or police units or other services. The bases are selected, equipped and maintained by the battalion headquarters of the Special Forces or the exported command of the SSO component and its assigned logistics module.

Group (squad) for SOF must be able to be invisible and be able to better mobility, which requires, depending on the task (mission) and the number should be from 5-10 to 20 people (a group, platoon to detachment, and two platoons).

During the movement to the crisis area or forward operate base of the Special Operations Forces they should be able to act silently and concealed without any traces (no food waste, cans, broken branches, broken stones or shores, etc.).

The specificity of the combat training is determined by the main means of action of the units of Special Operations Forces in neutralizing terrorist formations. They can be: conducting surveillance, set up ambushes, raids (search) clearing and neutralize the terrorists. These may be applied alone or in combination.

#### D. Observation

Observation of ordered area or object (or subject area probable location of a terrorist formation) is the most common means of obtaining information. It is, in itself, to gather information on the presence and nature of the actions of terrorist groups throughout the region from temporary or stationary surveillance posts in complete disguise and secrecy. The SOF personnel are trained to conduct circular and continuous observation in a hostile environment throughout the completing of the task.

Crucial for the success of surveillance is very good camouflage of assessment points, patience and endurance. The limit of patience of the personnel in their ability to stand long time in the position without any movement of the body, in cold or heat condition, pain, insomnia, hunger, thirst, is not boundless, but this level of the experienced well trained fighter should always be higher than the peasant, citizen, intelligent member of a terrorist formation. In the anti-terrorist struggle defeated patient and enduring. Achieving this capability must be the result of an integrated approach in classes in physical, tactical and special training and it is targeted training in extreme conditions and a specially constructed polygons, tactical and special fields and bands for psycho-physical hardening

The site (place) in the action area is being studied punctually; it is scouted about the presence of terrorist groups, the routes for their movement, their water sources and the hidden approaches to them. On the area should be able to conduct surveillance on the daily activities of the local population with particular attention to discover of couriers, connections, facilitators and supporters. A very important point is the ability to organize good cooperation with the police forces and in particular the use of information from their operative sources. This mode of action is very effective in keeping complete any technical communication silence, working undercover in this area and interacting with special operations forces. To achieve these skills in personnel from SOF need to enhance of their training and their ability to work undercover.

In some cases, SOF personnel must be able to combine observing with the key tracking, to trace the activities of terrorist organizations in certain time.

This method fulfills continuously or periodically maintaining of "contact" with a terrorist groups in order to specify its composition, activities, directions of movement and probable plan or course of action.

Under certain conditions - at night, limited visibility, and good concealment when the SSO is proximately close to the terrorist formation, it should be able to overhear through audible eavesdropping to determine the location and character of the terrorist group.

Once the area has been thoroughly researched and the objectives and targets for direct action are identified, the exact coordinates are identified; they are reported to the senior command to organize the interaction with Land Forces and Air Force. The successful destruction of fire armament of Land Forces and Air Force depends on the excellent training of the personnel from SOF in determining the exact coordinates of aims and objectives. For this purpose an important role in the training plays military topography. It can be used the old methods as well and modern technical equipment or devices (GPS, laser pointers).

Direct action operations are carried out in the form of ambushes, raids, clearing and neutralization of encircled (blocked) terrorist groups.

### **E. Set up ambushes.**

As a means the ambush concludes in advance and concealed deployment of Special Operations teams on routes for movement of terrorist groups.

The main objective in preparing units for SOF is achieving skills to set up ambushes with small terrorist group as a composition with only one purpose- to raid and to capture people alive.

The camouflage must turn the formation into practically invisible. Mandatory condition is every ambush must be trained in all possible and impossible conditions. These workouts are conducted in specially equipped areas, simulating a situation as close as possible to the real one.

In preparation, special attention is paid to the ability of the ones moving at the head of the column to liquidate silently with silent shooting devices or to disarm with knives and the aim is at everything must be silent. No traces are allowed Captured and killed are exported as fast as it is possible away from the ambush site. Captured should be questioned immediately, while still had not recovered from the stress. Those who are silent must be sending in senior headquarters for questioning.

Personnel from SOF must be able to catch bloodless prisoners near the bases of the terrorist groups near to latrines and places for waste disposal (pits).

The target of the ambush can be also capturing of the couriers on rendezvous points. Couriers know too much and should evacuate for interrogation in the fastest way in the headquarters. Through interrogation of prisoners and local residents can clarify important questions about the strength, composition and course of action of terrorist groups and to make important conclusions to support command making decisions. Data obtained from prisoners and locals must be checked and adjustments because the information obtained by interrogation may contain partial or complete misinformation, exaggeration, deception or ignorance.

The SOF teams must be trained to set an ambush to a larger terrorist group during their movement on a route. The purpose of arranging such an ambush is not so much to neutralize the given formation as to fail the course of action. The SSO teams must be able to choose the place according to the locality so that the column of the formation is pressed by the relief or limited by one side and without capability for fast deployment.

Places, more or and less, enabling the concealment must be equipped with a remote control mines or target-oriented mines.

Column of terrorist group formation is a moving target and concentrated fire from machine guns, rifles, sniper rifles and rocket-propelled grenades at it, combined with the striking effect of these mines are very effective. The whole firearm should not be longer than 10-15 seconds then the unit must withdraw in the fastest way. It is well known that the fire back opens maximum of seventh-eighth second and the organized strike back begins between the twentieth and twenty-five seconds.

The withdrawing route from the ambush is selected in advance and the order of withdrawing is worked out thoroughly by practicing all possible action options. Concealment of the withdrawing should be done by security team. The position of that team should be chosen in a safe area.

The SOF team must do its utmost to avoid open combat fight, thus depriving the terrorist formation of its major advantage - its more numerous compositions. The limited visibility in the forest or the populated places makes it impossible to accurately assess the situation if whether prosecution is taken or surrounding maneuvers. The SOF team must be necessarily retreat from the area of ambush as soon as possible. Achieving such skills in personnel is only after repeated workouts to obtain automatic reaction.

If a terrorist group undertakes a prosecution, then SOF team should organize a second ambush for misleading purposes. This option also is trained in advance prepared for this purpose training ranges.

### **F. Search (research).**

This method is widely used in the fight against terrorist organizations. Using of different methods for searching of the areas with the sole purpose to determine the location and make contact with a terrorist entity. The SOF teams train not to only the various search (research) methods but also the ability to reorganize after the contact in neutralizing (destroying) forces using the advantage - maximum support of Land Forces and Air forces suppressive fire. Maintaining contact with the enemy is an important aspect of this type of operations. The execution of the task search (research) ends with the neutralization of the terrorist group.

### **G. Combat building clear.**

Combat building clearing is a complex of tactical actions to lookout (search) of the area in which terrorist formations are trapped or isolated in order to neutralize or destroy them. The special operations forces teams may be used only in exceptional cases to clear the areas that small terrorist groups are blocked by Land Forces or only after Land Forces artillery strikes or Air Force support. The clearing is carried out with full interaction with the blocking teams and units and the precise identification of the responsibility zones of each participant in the operation (blocking, submitting and clearing) with mandatory reporting of the current situation in the clearing area.

To conduct tactical clearing, the SOF team conducts training by dividing in pairs, respecting the rule that the distance between pairs during the movement should be not less than 50 m maintaining direct visibility and allowing fire support from neighbor teams when needed.

During training, should be paid a special attention to overcoming open areas or other obstacles (rocks, pits, etc.) and pairs should be able to regroup in two so while one overcomes the area or obstacle, the other covers it from a sudden assault, raid or terrorist group.

Participating in cleaning and blocking should know very well that all the seats in mountain woodland and settlements that cause instinctively cluster obstacles, as well as those that can serve as shelter in a sudden fire (pits, ditches, ravines, fallen trees, large stumps, rocks, fences, entrances of buildings, etc.) is always mined by terrorist organizations.

The pairs, during the movement and clearing, prophylactic ally shoot any suspicious bush, a darkened area of the forest or windows and entrances to buildings even without visible targets. The wide paths, the meadows and the slopes, the junctions, between the living quarters and the buildings must be explored in detail.

Moving in a mountainous and wooded area or hi-cross terrain, as well as through a populated area, often breaks intervals between pairs and clearing can take the form of a group raid (search, research). SOF fighters must be able to align themselves on the regulation point if the relief or built-up areas have led them to the most unexpected places, they should be able to quickly regroup with readiness for a sudden head-on fight with enemy militants or other members of the terrorist group.

### **H. Features in action in urban environment.**

The SOF personnel and units for reconnaissance, search (research) and clearing in populated areas must learn the different techniques of concealed Techniques for overcoming obstacles in urban environment have their peculiarities, especially the overcoming of walls, the open areas at the crossroads, the crossing of streets, the inter-living spaces and the movement along the buildings, passing through their windows, doors and more. This training must include besides movement along the buildings and

move through buildings, as this method should also be given due preference. Especially attention should be paid to the most commonly encountered mistakes- inappropriate camouflage of equipment (barrel, surveillance equipment, radio antennas, etc.).

### **I. Eliminating the terrorists in the building areas.**

Tactical actions to neutralize the terrorists in the building are perhaps the most complex and dangerous. Their complexity is due to the limited visibility, the presence of many rooms, furniture, hidden places, entrances and exits.

This kind of operation is conducted by SOF with certain purpose to capture and neutralization of terrorist leaders or to destroy the headquarters and bases of the terrorist organizations. The SOF personnel and the units, designed to accomplish such operations lead its training in specially equipped areas with different configurations of rooms, corridors, doors and room furnishings.

The training is conducted on the infiltrate of the building, a search of the person, a movement to the area where he is located or is supposed to be located. Movement becomes silent, with readiness for action if a wanted terrorist appears. The training focuses on what should be the movement in a corridor, what is the correct position in front of the doors, what is necessary to check the rooms, how to open the door and how to infiltrate with a loaded, climbing the stairs and slowly moving along the wall, and to watch out for the appearance of a terrorist. During the training concerning building clearing, it is most appropriate to be trained the "top-down" clearing method because it gives the opportunity the terrorists to be forced to leave the building and be neutralized. If the opposite cleaning method "bottom-up" is used, the terrorists can either strengthened on the top floor or retreat to the roofs of neighboring buildings. This is a complex training that aims to achieve automatism in actions and without the right training conditions, it is impossible to achieve the desired results.

### **Features in preparation in neutralizing terrorists during night time**

The preparation of SOF teams for operations in night-time should take into account certain features which affect the performance of the task.

First: the SOF team must be equipped with the necessary special tools such as flashlights, night vision devices, flares, grenades, etc;

Secondly: to pay attention to the formation (order) of the SOF team during the movement into darkness and how to use a flashlight in proper way- besides of the body and not to illuminate the partners;

Thirdly: if it is necessary to open a fire to shoot at a target rather than intimidation, because it is possible to be affected accidental citizens. It should be keep in mind that firing at night condition is less effective and therefore should shoot at a closer distance and, above all, emphasize of intuitive shooting training.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The collapse of artificially created multinational states and inter-state unions in the past has led to the expansion of the border of international terrorism and it has made it a prime threat to the Balkan region.. This is a region with complex ethnic problems and significant influenced by organized crime. It is an important crossroads for drug trafficking, which are one of the sources of financing of terrorist organizations.

The illegal trafficking of human beings particularly from the unstable regions of the Caucasus, the Middle East and Middle Asia across the Balkans to other parts of the world is a serious prerequisite for infiltration of terrorist structures, establishing their bases, and using them to penetrate European countries.

The complete victory over terrorism can be achieved only after the causes generate terrorism have been removed, which at the present stage is an insoluble problem. This necessitates a clear identification of the problems, developments of a strategy , special training of forces, means and effective struggle on a national and global level in close interaction. The struggle, despite the invested resources is prolonged and with varying success. From all this logically arises the question to what extent is realized the necessity of a more recent update of combat training of the SOF and the more recent equipping for a successful completion of the mission in fighting against the terrorism. Building a unified system between Special Operation Forces, Land Forces, Air Forces, Border Police and Department of Internal Affairs.

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This article is related to project No BG05M2OP001-2.009-0001 "Support for the development of human resources and capacity for science and research of National Military University for its transformation into a contemporary knowledge centre". The project is implemented with the financial support of the Operational Programme „Science and education for intelligent growth“ 2014 - 2020, co-financed by the European Union through the European Structural and Investment Funds.