

THE SWAT CYCLOPEDIA

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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THE SWAT CYCLOPEDIA

**A Handy Desk Reference of Terms,
Techniques, and Strategies
Associated with the Police Special
Weapons and Tactics Function**

By

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To all of the officers of the Charleston Police Department's Special Weapons and Team,
and those of the SWAT Cadre who gave of their valuable time, support and assistance to
the Team. It was great! Take Care.

DISCLAIMER

The material presented in this text is for informational purposes only. Some of the data contained herein could be extremely dangerous and lead to possible personal injury or death to participants or others. Practice or utilization should only be conducted under trained, competent and professional supervision.

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years “SWAT”, or Special Weapons and Tactics as the acronym symbolizes, is a concept that has become quite prominent within law enforcement. It has gained recognition as an effective tool by which today’s police agencies can combat the often extraordinary forms of violence that spontaneously erupt to threaten our communities. The increased reliance upon this very specialized tactical response capability has created a somewhat unique profession of specialists-elite within the very unique profession of law enforcement. As SWAT has become more established within the police community a certain language and jargon has also evolved with it.

The SWAT Cyclopedia has been developed as a basic reference for this terminology as well as other state-of-the-art information associated with the police special weapons and tactics function. Within this manual is a wide range of technical data pertaining to the tactical topics of training, equipment, deployment, operational strategies, slang, quotes, helpful hints and historical details, along with scores of other informative features. Incorporated within this material are numerous additional enhancements for a greater, more comprehensive understanding concerning the world of SWAT. This includes such topics as counterterrorism, domestic terrorism and international terrorism.

Through *The SWAT Cyclopedia*’s cross-referencing it also serves as a self-help instructional guide for police officers who may be assigned to a SWAT team, or those who, perhaps, are just interested in the subject of tactical response operations and what is involved in this very complex law enforcement function. For the SWAT Team officer this text will serve as a fundamental guide to applied knowledge and characteristics associated with activities of special weapons and tactics.

Additionally, this reference manual encompasses certain administrative considerations pertaining to the organization and management of an agency’s SWAT program. Therefore it is geared to provide particular assistance to the tactical commander seeking solutions or, perhaps, the law enforcement executive who may be planning the incorporation of a special weapons and tactics unit within his or her agency.

R.A.H.

THE SWAT CYCLOPEDIA

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Accurize The zeroing of a firearm, that has an adjustable scope, to a target at a particular range through the adjustment of the scope's elevation and windage. See Scope, Zeroing.

Action Imperative Syndrome²² The compelling sensation or anxiety impulse that something/anything must be done in order to quickly bring a high-risk police encounter to a conclusion. This "urgency" or "rush to action" can lead to a premature or inappropriate tactical response before it is necessary or proper to do so. While there is usually an innate desire to seek immediate resolutions to difficult, stressful life-threatening situations, this urgency can also be prompted by outside influences seeking politically correct appearances for a bad situation. This, then, becomes an unnecessary factor to further confuse and confound the crisis if it is allowed. SWAT Teams should be alert to being pushed or pressured into sudden actions that vary drastically from established SWAT policy or proper operational procedures. A SWAT Team should always work within the parameters and manner for which it was designed and intended. *See* Emergency Assault Plan, Immediate Action Drills.

Acute Stress Reaction The police officer's normal personal reaction period of doubt, uneasiness, hostility and sometimes highly emotional release following an intense life-and-death struggle or encounter.

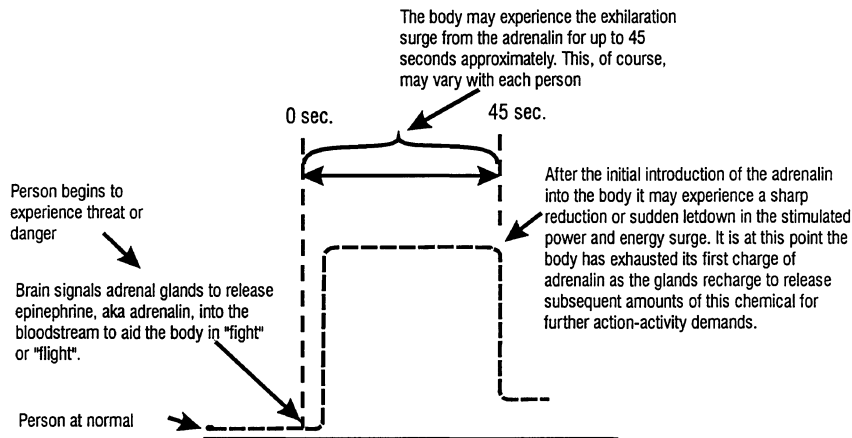
Adrenal Dump²¹ The psychophysiological phenomenon that produces a supercharged, highly exhilarated sensation from adrenaline (epinephrine) being naturally pumped into the bloodstream which can occur whenever a person is threatened, becomes angry, fearful or is under extreme anxiety. This "fuel-injected" feeling can last anywhere from 30 to 45 seconds on the average for a highly charged, physically super strong experience. After this initial surge of power this mental and physical sensation will begin to subside. The body, and its extremities, may feel a significant weakness as fighting capacities and strength sharply drop to, perhaps, less than half the original power surge. This sudden change is often confused with an oncoming, overwhelming sense of fear due to the mind's comprehension of the threat or jeopardy that has been realized.

Tactical response personnel should have a clear understanding of the adrenal dump phenomenon and its cyclic process so as not to confuse the "out-of-steam"

feeling with an overwhelming, intimidating wave of sudden fear. A healthy recognition and psychological orientation to the fear factor should always be a part of every SWAT officer's mental preparation. Hence, the body's temporary deflated feeling should not be confused with fear. It is only a momentary drop as the body works to recharge itself.

Knowledge and awareness of the adrenal dump process is critically important for the SWAT officer who may be suddenly involved in a violent, dangerous situation. Three special survival-related factors that tactical response personnel should especially recognize regarding the adrenal dump are:

1. Be cognizant and thoroughly familiar, in advance, of the adrenal dump process and its cycle of "up and down" influence upon the person and their ability to perform in high-threat situations.
2. Try to get the fistfight, gun battle, etc., concluded as quickly as possible. (In less than thirty seconds is advisable.)
3. Be prepared to fight through the "letdown" period if the high threat encounter cannot be ended quickly.



The Adrenal Dump Process

After-Action Report The full formal documentation completed by all SWAT Team personnel detailing their individual as well as the team's actions from their perspective that occurred during a tactical response operation, including the standard particulars for a police report it should highlight: Individual tasks, functions or assignment during the operation; use of force and provocation; areas entered and searched; evidence found and locations; weapons recovered; jeopardy or threats experienced; persons arrested; injuries sustained; equipment lost or damaged and any other information that thoroughly documents the individual officer's presence, participation and activities during the raid or response event.

Aimpoint The intended location for the placement of firearm rounds into a designated target that is obtained by proper alignment of the weapon's sights to the point to be fired upon. See Front Sight Focus, Target Discrimination, Muzzle Control.

AK47 The Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle is one of the more popular firearms among terrorist groups worldwide. It was developed in the Soviet Union by Mikhail T. Kalashnikov and chambers a 7.62-millimeter round. This weapon has also been manufactured in Czechoslovakia and the People's Republic of China in slightly different variations.



The AK47 Assault Rifle

“All Clear!” The verbal communication shouted between SWAT Team members to indicate that the entire premises is free of perpetrator threat once the raid activity has concluded.

Ambush A surprise attack executed from a hidden location. *See* Deliberate Ambush.

American Counterterrorism *See* Delta Force, Hostage Rescue Team, SEAL, Special Weapons and Tactics.

American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) An organization for security professionals whose objective is to further the field of protection for business, industry and government. ASIS publishes a monthly journal, *Security Management* and offers numerous seminars on security and terrorism awareness. The ASIS can be contacted at 1625 Prince Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; (703)519-6200.

Anarchist One who promotes or participates in social disorder and upheaval or rebels against government authority. Anarchist activities can lead to incidents of high-risk police confrontations as these types or groups attempt to further their views and ideologies. *See* Terrorism, Hostage-Takers.

Anarchist Cookbook (The) A manual which describes the manufacture of makeshift weapons and other dangerous implementations. Written by William Powell. (Copyright: 1971, New York).