SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
BASIC AND SPECIALISED TRAINING
OVERVIEW
The Vision of the SAPS: Human Resources Development Division

“To ensure quality education, training and development (ETD) in support of creating a safe and secure environment for all people in the Republic of South Africa.”
The Mission of the SAPS: Human Resources Development Division

“To invest in human capital through innovative and quality education, training and development (ETD) of all employees of the South African Police Service, promoting lifelong learning, in support of effective service delivery.”
Training intensity and skill level escalates as the threat level increases.
Specialised operations:
- International and national interest hostage release and counterterrorism

Medium-risk operations:
- CIT (open-air robberies)
- Barricaded suspects
- Dangerous arrest warrants
- Dangerous/difficult search warrants

High-risk operations:
- Rapid response operations
- Arrest warrants with a medium threat
- Search warrants with medium difficulty

Public order operations:
- Crowd management
- Restoring public unrest
- Restoring serious public violence

Medium-risk operations:
- Arrest warrants with a medium threat
- Search warrants with medium difficulty

Medium-risk operations:
- Arrest warrants with a medium threat
- Search warrants with medium difficulty

Medium-risk operations:
- Arrest warrants with a medium threat
- Search warrants with medium difficulty

POP

Medium-risk operations

TRT

NIU

STF

Courtesy: Lt Col Scott, STF
BASIC POLICE DEVELOPMENT LEARNING PROGRAMME
BASIC POLICE DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
THE PURPOSE OF BASIC POLICE TRAINING

To enable newly appointed police officials to –


– provide a more effective service, which will improve community satisfaction and put them in a position to fulfil their mission of creating a safe and secure environment for all who live in South Africa.
On completion of this basic training, the learner will be able to:

1. balance the constitutional and legal rights of individuals with the competence to legally infringe those rights in the service of maintaining a safe and secure society.

2. evaluate policing principles and their application in relation to crime prevention.

3. conduct a criminal investigation by gathering information and evidence.

4. evaluate situations and select tactical techniques and skills needed to perform policing duties and maintain the safety of the self and others.
EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES (continued)

5. support a criminal prosecution by preparing documents and giving evidence in a court of law.

6. apply the principles of operation and service delivery within a Client Service Centre (CSC) in a policing environment.

7. maintain professional conduct to enhance the principles of service delivery to the community.
The target group for Basic Police Development’s entry-level recruits are constables.

The duration of the learning programme: 24 months

- Academy phase - 12 months
- Workplace learning phase - 12 months
LEARNING AREAS OF THE BTLP

LA 1: Orientation to the SAPS
LA 2: Law
LA 3: Community Service Centre
LA 4: Crime Investigation
LA 5: Crime Prevention
LA 6: Street Survival
THE PURPOSE OF LEARNING AREA 1

To orientate the learner on how to conduct himself/herself in a professional manner in a policing environment and to introduce the SAPS culture to the learners.
Learning Area 1: Orientation to the SAPS

Trainees are trained in professional conduct, including discipline, command and control, and team work. Employee Health and Wellness (EHW) is also addressed to enable the trainees to cope with the stressful situations they are to be confronted with as they perform their duties. EHW has a module that particularly deals with self management and anger management. Human Rights forms a golden thread in the programme and is presented in all the learning areas.
Learning Area 2: Law

Focusing on equipping the trainees with aspects of law, particularly Criminal Law. The Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977) is presented.

Issues related to effecting an arrest are dealt with in all learning areas.

The use of force and how to effect an arrest in terms of Section 49(2) of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977) are dealt with extensively.
Learning Area 6: Street Survival

The use of force is also addressed when firearm and tactical training are presented to the trainees.
Exercising alertness during policing tasks to ensure the safety of police officials and the public through preventative actions.
Exercising initiative and tactical preparation during policing tasks.
Understand techniques of tactical communication.
Use personal equipment safely to ensure safe and lawful performance of policing tasks.
Make ‘use of force’ tactical decisions that meet legal and organisational requirements.
Apply the principles of the use of force to ensure safe and lawful performance of policing tasks.
Firearm training is presented throughout the training in terms of the Firearm Control Act, 2000 (Act No 60 of 2000).

All trainees are trained in the safe handling and practical shooting of the following firearms: 9mm pistol, an R5 rifle and a shotgun.

The general aspects applicable to all firearms are dealt with in the training, as well as the fundamentals of shooting.

Trainees are exposed to tactical and street survival techniques, tactical aspects with regard to tactical awareness, the carrying of firearms in certain situations and conditions of firearms, when attending to complaints.
Crowd Management is presented theoretically in the programme.

The Crowd Management presented at this level is for the first responders in crowd management before specialised trained members arrive.

Explain the relevant legislation/legal aspects of crowd management. Report crowd forming and actions by the first member(s) in the crowd that is developing.

Explain the first police member’s/members’ responsibilities at the scene of the spontaneous gathering.

Explain crowd dynamics.

Explain the use of force in crowd management operations.
In Crowd Management, the trainees are also trained to understand the relevant legislation. The Regulations of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act No 205 of 1993) together with SO (G) 262 are discussed with the trainees.

A reference is also made to sections 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18 and 36 of the Constitution, which refers to the right to human dignity (section 10), the right to life (section 11), the right to freedom of expression (section 12, 16), the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket and hand over petitions (section 17), the right to association (section 18) and limitation of the rights (section 36).
PRACTICAL SHOOTING

• During the workplace learning phase, physical fitness and shooting practice on all firearms are undertaken.

• If levels decline, trainees are given remedial training on the specific problem areas through coaching.
PUBLIC ORDER POLICE
ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING
The right to the existence of the Public Order Police units is founded in the Constitution.

In terms of section 17(1) of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995), the National Commissioner will, subject to section 218 (1)(K) of the Constitution, establish and maintain a national public order capacity.
The mandate of Public Order Policing is to provide security and stabilise solutions for crowd management and crowd unrest situations, where classic policing strategies are not equipped to deal with the situation.
MANDATED FUNCTIONS

Responsible for maintaining Public Order

- performing crowd management
- combating public violence
- stabilizing of serious and violent crime incidents
- giving specialised operational support
- The rendering of specialised assistance to Divisions, ie detectives, border police and VIP Protection
The Crowd Management curriculum consists of the following five modules and is presented over 3 weeks:

Module 1: Legal Framework
Module 2: Preparing for Crowd Management Incidents
Module 3: Crowd Management Equipment
Module 4: Crowd Management Techniques
Module 5: Crowd Management Operations
Module 1: Legal Framework

- The Regulation of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act No 205 of 1993)
- SO (General) 262

Module 2: Preparing for Crowd Management Incidents

- Crowd dynamics
- Conflict resolution
- Scale of use of force
- Constitutional powers of the police
- Deadly force
- Tactical communication
- Equipment and use of resources
Module 3: Equipment

- Helmet
- Gas mask and filter
- Body armour
- Tonfa
- Shield
- Musler shotgun and double-ball rubber rounds
- Pepper spray
- CS (tear gas) – CS rifle grenades and 40mm CS rounds
- Stun grenades
- Other pyrotechnical aids (coloured smoke grenades, flares)
- B&T 40mm grenade launcher
Module 4: Crowd Management Techniques

- Techniques on foot
- Platoon and section formations
- Indoor techniques
- Vehicle formations
- Principals and rules of intervention
  - Legality
  - Optimisation (optimal use of equipment)
  - Situational appropriateness (my actions must solve the problem, not create a bigger one)
  - Proportionality (are my actions proportional to the threat)
- Shooting range – shotgun with double-ball rubber rounds

Tactical options
- **Defensive**
  - Block protestors
  - Isolate
  - Channelise
  - Escort
  - Patrol

- **Offensive**
  - Search
  - Pushback
  - Evacuate
  - Encircle
  - Disperse
Module 5: Crowd Management Operations

- Definitions and abbreviations of crowd management
- Conventional signs related to crowd management
- Briefing and debriefing

Assessment

Formative and summative assessments are used to assess the understanding of the course content, application of the knowledge and behavioural change of the learners.
K9 DOG HANDLERS
INTRODUCTION

• The safety and security of all inhabitants of our country is the responsibility of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

• This includes the deterrence of crime, the investigation of all crimes and participation, in effect, to establish the root causes of crime.

• Police dogs are a huge aid in this regard.
THE TRAINING OF POLICE DOGS

Patrol Dog Handlers Training
- Course (four months) and
- Tactical Dog Handlers Course (three weeks)

Sniffer and Specialised Dog Handlers Training
- Course (five months) and
- Tactical Dog Handlers Course (two weeks)
PATROL DOG HANDLERS TRAINING

Curriculum

- Obedience
- Apprehending armed/dangerous suspects
- Searching for suspects in an open area or buildings
- Averting an attack
- Practical tracking
- Searching for articles
- Retrieving an object
PATROL DOGS ARE TRAINED TO -

- follow a human trail and indicate what objects contain a human scent at a crime scene.
- apprehend fleeing, dangerous, armed suspects and find possible scented objects.
- avert and apprehend dangerous, armed suspects.
Patrol dog handling teams can be deployed to a crime scene at the request of any member of the SAPS, station or unit or any investigating officer, to assist with the investigation.

Patrol dogs can be used to prevent, combat and investigate crime.
SNIFTER AND SPECIALISED DOG HANDLER TRAINING

Curriculum

- Obedience
- Searching for substance(s) in vehicles, buildings, containers, under ground and pavilions.
- Searching for substance(s) in open areas.
THE OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT OF
SNIFFER AND SPECIALISED DOGS

• The K9 handler and sniffer dogs and specialised dogs can be deployed to a crime scene at the request of any SAPS member, station or unit or any investigating officer to assist with the investigation.

• The K9 handler and sniffer or specialised dog can be deployed to a crime scene, any operation, roadblock, ports of entry and any cross international border at the request of any investigating officer or Department of Foreign Affairs, to assist with an investigation.
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: BACKGROUND

- After the Jeppe Town incident on 25 June 2005, the Crime Prevention Division conducted a skills audit on the tactical training standards of dog units and members of the Flying Squad.

- Divisional Commissioner AH Lamoer (letter: 11/1/3/1/2817: 11/1/3/12925 dated 20 October 2006) indicated that tactical training had to be presented to candidate handlers in their basic dog handler courses.
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: TRAINING MODULES

Theoretical presentations

Legal aspects
- Private defence
- Use of force (section 49 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977))
- Search and seizure

Seven survival principles
Tactical procedures
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: TRAINING MODULES

Weapon-handling skills

- Shooting fundamentals
- Safe direction
- Safe making, loading, assembling and disassembling a 9mm handgun, an R5 assault rifle and a Musler shotgun.
- The carrying conditions and the shooting positions of a 9mm handgun, an R5 assault rifle and a Musler shotgun.
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: TRAINING MODULES

Tactical movement

- Primary position
- Step-by
- Buttonhook penetration technique
- Two-man door penetration technique, with and without a dog
- Hi-lo, with and without a dog
- Passage movement, with and without a dog
- Stair movements, with and without a dog
- Room clearing techniques, with and without a dog
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: TRAINING MODULES CONTINUED

- Various tactical movements for target approach
- Climbing techniques
- Handling suspicious persons, as well as vehicles
- Arresting techniques
- Ambush spoor
- Close Quarter Combat
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: SHOOTING EXERCISES

- **Standard maintenance shooting exercise**
  - 9mm handgun – 5 m to 15 m
  - R5 assault rifle – 30 m
  - Shotgun – 10 m (baton rounds)

- **Assault courses**
  - Move from firing line to firing line to engage targets/2 m to 10 m away

- **Stop-Street-Ambush**
  - Shooting exercise with the dog
  - Send the dog on a suspect to apprehend the suspect while handlers engage other targets
TACTICAL DOG HANDLERS COURSE: SHOOTING EXERCISES

- **Jungle lane**
  - The shootist moves in a predefined path from point A to point B and engage 10 targets with his/her shotgun (baton rounds)

- **Close Quarter Combat shooting exercise**
  - The shootist will apply all striking as well as kicking techniques on a protection pad and engage targets with a firearm.

- **Charge office blue**
  - The shootist will sit behind a table, assemble a 9mm handgun and engage targets while moving from firing point to firing point.
The Tactical Dog Handlers Course is valid for three years.

After three years, the dog handler must attend a Tactical Dog Handlers Refresher Course.
TRAINING AT K9 UNITS

- Each K9 Unit will have a dog exercise session once a week.
- In this exercise session, the dog will be trained in all disciplines to ensure that the dog, as well as the handlers, adhere to the standards set by the National Instruction.
- During this exercise session, practical exercise scenarios will be presented to the handler and the dog.
TRAINING AT K9 UNITS CONTINUED

- K9 handlers can attend as many possible shooting practices as they can in a year.

- K9 handlers must attend one maintenance shooting exercise per year.
TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAMS
ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING
INTRODUCTION

“Proposed model: Tactical Response Team. 11/1/1 dated 8 September 2009”

• It was established in October 2009 on the instruction of the National Commissioner.
• Purpose
  • To increase tactical capacity at cluster level to support clusters in dealing with medium-risk operations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment</th>
<th>Equipment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ballistic helmet</td>
<td>Tactical gloves</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tactical goggles</td>
<td>Equipment bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tactical vest</td>
<td>Bullet-resistant vest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tactical belt</td>
<td>9mm pistol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility leg rig</td>
<td>R5 assault rifle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg holster</td>
<td>Stun grenade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee and elbow pads</td>
<td>Smoke grenade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue police beret</td>
<td>Jump suit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The mandate of the tactical response teams is to provide a tactical solution to medium threat situations, where generic policing strategies are not equipped to deal with the situation.
The TRT renders a tactical support function to cluster-based, medium threat, intelligence-driven operations and a quick reaction capability to serious and violent crime to contain the situation until the NIU/STF’s tactical units arrive.

or

React, if necessary, if a tactical solution cannot be delayed.
1. Combating crime focuses on —
   (a) providing an immediate tactical response capacity within an identified cluster area;
   (b) addressing crime through well-planned, intelligence-driven operations or specific requests within an identified cluster area.
2. Combating public violence by -
   (a) rendering support to major events
   (b) restoring public order
   (c) supporting the Public Order Police in combating crowd management.
3. Escorting dangerous criminals.
4. Escorting valuable and/or dangerous cargo.
5. Providing tactical assistance to other units within the cluster areas.
6. Rendering support during disasters and incident management.
Preselection profile

1. Applicants must have a minimum of two years’ functional experience after completing basic training.
2. Applicants must be medically fit and willing to undergo an extensive medical evaluation.
3. Only functional members appointed in terms of Section 5 of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995) with the rank of Constable, Sergeant, Warrant Officer and Lieutenant/Captain can apply.
Preselection profile

4. Applicants must be willing to undergo a psychometric evaluation and fit the TRT competency profile.

5. Applicants must be willing to undergo and be successful in fitness and shooting evaluations.

6. Applicants must not have been found guilty of any criminal or departmental contravention.

7. Applicants must not be declared unfit to possess a firearm or be subjected to a Section 102 investigation.
Preselection profile

8. Applicants must be in possession of a valid code (EB) driver’s licence.

9. Applicants must not be older than 28 years on the day of the respective closing date for applications.

10. Applicants must be willing to attend and successfully complete the prescribed Tactical Response Team’s training cycle.
Minimum selection criteria

Selection process:
• Application
• Psychometric evaluation
• Preselection fitness evaluation
• Preparation and conditioning
• Medical examination
• Baseline evaluations

Average selection success rate
• Applications: 550
• Psychometric evaluations: 330
• Preselection fitness: 120
• Prepcon: 35
• Baseline evaluations: 25
Selection criteria

**Preselection**

- Application
- Psychometric evaluation since April 2011
- Fitness evaluation
- Medical examination
Baseline evaluations

- **Fitness**
  - Endurance testing
  - Upper body strength
  - Agility

- **Shooting**
  - 9mm pistol
  - R5 assault rifle

**Baseline Assessment Tool**

**Fitness**
- 2.4 km run
- Push-ups
- Sit-ups
- Bench dips
- Shuttle runs

**Shooting**
- 9mm pistol shooting exercise
- R5 rifle shooting exercise
“Establishment of Tactical Response Teams
Document 3/1/5 dated 1 April 2010”

- Training Course (six weeks)
  - Weapon phase (two weeks)
  - Urban phase (two weeks)
  - Rural phase (two weeks)
TRT WEAPONS PHASE

“Establishment of Tactical Response Teams
Document 3/1/5 dated 1 April 2010”

- **Duration:** Two weeks

- Consists of two weapons
  - R5 as a primary firearm.
  - 9 mm pistol as a secondary firearm.

- Subject matter
  - Assembling, stripping, basic characteristics and safety measures.
  - Immediate action drills and range commands.
  - Tactical shooting assessments.
TRT URBAN PHASE

“Establishment of Tactical Response Teams Document 3/1/5 dated 1 April 2010”

- **Duration:** Two weeks
  - Chapter 1: Psychological preparation and OODA loop
    - Legal framework, tactical colour codes, tactical communications
  - Chapter 2: Team movement
  - Chapter 3: Target/tactical approach on foot techniques and vehicle techniques
  - Chapter 4: Penetration techniques for teams
TRT URBAN PHASE (continue)

“Establishment of Tactical Response Teams
Document 3/1/5 dd 2010-04-01”

- **Duration:** Two weeks

  - Chapter 5: Scaling techniques
  - Chapter 6: Fast-roping helicopter insertion
  - Chapter 7: Breaching techniques (mechanical)
  - Chapter 8: Pyrotechnical Aids - Stun grenades and smoke grenades and M26 practice grenades.
TRT RURAL PHASE

“Establishment of Tactical Response Teams
Document 3/1/5 dd 2010-04-01”

• **Duration:** Two weeks
  – Kit preparation
  – Temporary bases
  – Map reading
  – Global Positioning Systems
  – Patrol formations
  ◦ Waylay (suspect approach and interception)
  ◦ Escape and evasion
  ◦ Follow-up operations
  ◦ Fire and movement
TRT training programmes are benchmarked against STF training.

The TRT training is benchmarked against the training of the STF, who is the custodian of tactical training. The STF benchmark their training internationally and those techniques and knowledge is filtered down through the different operational levels to the TRT.

This creates a golden thread from low-risk operational units through to high-risk specialised units.
“Draft Divisional Directive: TRT Training and Skills Development as well as TRT Operational Standards”
NATIONAL INTERVENTION UNIT
ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING

Establishment

The National Intervention Unit (NIU) was officially established in 2000, when a need arose to have a national capacity within the Republic to address medium-risk and high-risk policing duties, specifically at incidents of violence where normal policing was deemed inadequate.

Goal: To stabilise volatile situations by combating serious and violent crimes, the policing of high-risk public violence, rendering specialised operational support to provinces/units/divisions.

Purpose: The NIU render a specialised operational support function focused on planned, intelligence-driven and targeted deployments to address specific incidents of crime and public violence, and not day-to-day crowd management operations.
Divisional Instruction: Establishing and Functioning of National Intervention Units, 20 February 2010.

• The NIU will be activated through its various units. Commanders for day-to-day operational support.

• The Divisional Commissioner of Operational Response Services will prioritise and approve the deployment of the unit to other provinces. The National Commissioner can, however, deploy the NIU to any province should she/he so desire.

• All requests for assistance must be submitted to the Divisional Commissioner of Operational Response Services.

• In provinces where the national intervention units are stationed, the Provincial Head of Operational Response Services will be responsible for maintaining the NIU capacity in the province.
GEOGRAPHICAL PLACEMENT

Establishment and functioning of the national intervention units: Divisional Instruction 10/1/20”

National intervention units are established in four provinces:

Gauteng: Pretoria
KwaZulu-Natal: Durban
The Western Cape: Cape Town
The Eastern Cape: Mthatha
Prerequisite for applicants

► Successful completion of the SAPS’s Basic Training
► Minimum of two years’ operational experience at station or unit level.
► Not been found guilty during a departmental/criminal hearing
► No criminal record
► No pending cases: Departmental and/or criminal
► Physically and mentally fit (Attributes will be assessed during preselection and preparation and conditioning phases)
TRAINING: NATIONAL LEVEL

• Phase 1: Preselection - four days

• Phase 2: Preparation and conditioning phase - one week

• Selection - 18 weeks (broken into three phases)
  
  Phase 3: Weapons Phase - six weeks
  Phase 4: Rural Phase - six weeks
  Phase 5: Urban Phase - six weeks
PRESELECTION

Purpose: To select interested candidates who possess certain personal attributes as required by the National Intervention Unit’s Operational Requirements.

Four-day program facilitated at unit level

(± 250 applicants per unit)

Preselection criteria

- Physical ability assessment and extensive medical evaluation
  - Individual psychological battery tests (via the SAPS’s Psychological Services):
    - Phobia testing
      1. Acrophobia
      2. Hydrophobia
      3. Claustrophobia

- Basic shooting skills
  - Basic weapon proficiency and handling assessment
  - Endurance capability
PREPARATION AND CONDITIONING PHASE

• Four-day programme facilitated at unit level

A 69-hour individual endurance programme assessing the individual’s attributes.

✓ Effects on the individual during sleep deprivation.
✓ Effects on the individual due to a lack of food
✓ Ability to perform optimally under strenuous situations while deprived of sleep and food
✓ Ability to perform in a team context
✓ Ability to lead a group while under strenuous physical and mental stress
✓ Ability to encourage group cohesion while under mental stress
✓ Ability to show initiative
PROGRAMME

- Eighteen weeks
  (± 48 trainees attending the first phase from the initial ±1 000 applicants)
  Broken up into three x six-week phases:

Phase 1 – Weapons Phase
Purpose: To introduce, train and familiarise trainees with operational weapons being used in the NIU environment and to assess candidates on medium-risk to high-risk weapon proficiency, accuracy and weapon handling skills.

Phase 2 - Rural Phase
Purpose: To introduce applicants to the NIU’s rural techniques and equipment for operational deployment within a medium-risk to high-risk rural operational environment, equipping operational members with skills to safely and successfully police rural areas.

Phase 3 - Urban Phase
- Purpose: To introduce, train and assess attendees on medium-risk and high-risk urban movement techniques, and to equip members with skills to safely and successfully apprehend suspects in an urban environment.
Trainees are trained and assessed on the following weapons:

- 5.56 mm R5 assault rifles
- 9 x 19mm pistols (PX4 storm and Z88)
- 9 x 19mm submachine guns (Uzi and mini Uzi and H&K UMP)
- 7.62 mm R1 assault rifles
- 12 gauge Musler shotguns

Assessments on -
- weapon proficiency, accuracy and tactical shooting
- physical ability
- team/group building exercises
- weapon inspections
PHASE 2 - RURAL PHASE

THE FOLLOWING MODULES:

► Pyrotechnical aids
► Tactical movements
► Map reading
► Global Positioning System (GPS)
► First aid (Level 3)
► Reconnaissance exercises
► Patrol formations
► Cover, concealment and camouflage
► Helicopter trooping
► Escape and evasion
► Observation and reconnaissance
► Introduction to foreign weapons (Eastern Block Weapons: PPSH/RPD/Tokarev/Makarov/RPG 7/AK47/74 and East Block Landmines and hand grenades)
► Obstacles and river crossings
RURAL PHASE CONTINUED

- Rural survival skills
- Battlecraft and minor tactics
- Immediate reaction drills
- Practical high altitude observation and reconnaissance exercises and assessments
- Mountain orientation
- Escape and evasion
- Waylay operations
- Jungle lanes
- Follow-up operations
- Situational assessment and planning
- Writing and interpreting a rural operational plan
- Vehicle shooting exercises

→ Trainees, who are found not yet competent on any one of the modules, will not progress to the next phase
PHASE 3: URBAN PHASE

Trainees are trained and assessed on the following modules:

► Urban approaches by air, foot and vehicle
► Mechanical breaching
► Single and multiple entries
► Passage movement
► Stair movement
► Multiple entries
► Tactical ladder techniques
► Climbing techniques
► Urban tactical shooting ranges
► Legislation (sect 49 - use of force)
► Urban obstacle crossing
► Urban tactical approaches
► Door penetration
Interlinking doors  
Moving past doors and windows  
- Buttonhook penetrations  
- Hi-low penetrations  
- Hi-low swivel penetrations  
- Preparation and execution of operation orders  
- Grounded aircraft interceptions  
- Biological gas mask penetrations  
- Urban vehicle operations  
- Urban sniper tactical assistance operations  
- Stun penetrations  
- High angle rope techniques  
- Urban tactical holding areas  
- Urban assessment and planning  
- Injured operator procedures

Trainees, who are found to be not yet competent in any one of the modules will be returned to their original station/unit
NIU Commanders Training

Commander’s Specialised Training

All NIU unit commanders and operational commanders attend -
the National Intervention Unit’s Commanders’ Training Programme:

➢ Operational planning and of medium-risk/high-risk scenarios.
➢ Operational management of medium-risk/high-risk scenarios.
Purpose:
To ensure that operational members within the NIU maintain skill levels and continually develop members on new and acquired skills. (Weapons, Rural and Urban).

In-service training
- Each platoon on in-service training, one week in every calendar month
- Operational tactical skills are maintained
- The introduction of new equipment
- The introduction of new techniques
- Remedial training, if required
SPECIAL TASK FORCE
ESTABLISHMENT AND TRAINING
AIM

The primary aim of the Unit is as per section 218(1)(m) of the Constitution, namely the handling of:

“… high-risk operations which require specialised skills.”
MISSION

“The Special Task Force of the South African Police Service is to provide a specialised and impartial service to the community, by handling high-risk operations that fall beyond the scope of classic policing, in a professional and responsible manner.”
MISSION STATEMENT

The Special Task Force strives to be the model of excellence for tactical paramilitary policing operations, in dealing with:

- hostage situations,
- acts of terror,
- sabotage,
- sieges,
- other high-risk threats.

In doing so, the unit will uphold the core values of integrity and fidelity while providing an impartial and professional service to South African citizens and the international community.
MISSION STATEMENT

• The Unit will perform its functions with courage and tenacity, continually evolving to effectively counter criminal and terrorist acts and trends.

• The Special Task Force will only recruit persons conforming to the exceptional attributes and standards required by the Unit.

• The STF will place high value on their personnel and will continue to offer a challenging, rewarding and results-orientated environment, always recognising STF members’ contributions.

• The emphasis will be to continually develop personnel within this dynamic environment by using innovative techniques, tactics and technologies to enhance the unit's capabilities, enabling it to be placed as one of the elite tactical assault policing units in the world.
• The handling of high-risk operations within the SAPS, on behalf of other security services within South Africa (in terms of section 199 (1) of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 (Act No 108 of 1996) as well as foreign security agencies abroad.
FUNCTIONS WITHIN THE MANDATE

• **Hostage release operations** on land, sea or air transportation
• Specialised operational assistance in **counteracting terrorism**
• Operational assistance within the SAPS for **criminal-related, high-risk operations** where specialised skills and equipment are required
• Specialised assistance for the **protection of high profile VIPs**
• Specialised **search, rescue and recovery** assistance
• The performance of any other specialised duties assigned by the National Commissioner of the SAPS
STF selection process

• The STF Selection is a multi-faceted process where candidates with prescribed attributes are selected to participate on the STF Training Cycle.

• The restrictions initially start in the recruiting drive, dictating who may apply, to include a target group who can be moulded and contribute back to the unit, who possess the embedded knowledge and qualifications of a police official, which is a necessary foundational prerequisite to perform the functions of the STF operator.
Members who wish to pursue a career in the Special Task Force will need to comply with the following criteria:

- The member must be a full-time functional member of the SAPS – appointed in terms of the South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995) and have completed the police’s Basic Training Course;
- The member must be an NCO – the rank of Constable, Sergeant or Warrant Officer;
- Age – not older than 32 years of age.
STF selection process

• Prepared to undergo the STF Selection Process (Provincial Preselection, Preparation and Conditioning Phase and Vasbyt), in order to gain entry to the STF Training Course.

• The candidate must not suffer from any phobias, e.g. claustrophobia, water phobias, fear of heights, etc. Specific exercises are scheduled during the selection process, which will expose persons with such phobias;

• Prepared to undergo the STF Training Course for 11 months and, if successful, for a further five months on the advanced training cycle.
STF QUALIFICATION

Selection (five weeks)
- Provincial Preselection
- Prepcon
- Vasbyt

STF Training Cycle (16 months)
- Medical Level 3
- Weapon Phase
- Basic Rural Phase
- Urban Phase
- Basic Parachuting Phase
- Advanced Rural Phase
- Advanced Driving Phase
- Hostage Release Phase
- Waterborne Course
- Explosive Breaching Course
- VIP Protection Course
- Advanced Parachuting Course
STF OPERATORS BADGE

Waterborne Course
Explosive Breaching Course
VIP Protection
Advanced Parachute Course
Two-year Probation

STF CYCLE COURSES
Selection courses have, since the unit's inception, been the sole source of operational manpower. To date, 32 selection courses have been held, with over 10 000 candidates applying, of which 484 have completed the course successfully, averaging a 5% pass rate.
END