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Beijing Special Weapons and Tactics Unit

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The **Beijing Special Weapons and Tactics Unit**^[2] (**Abbr.:** **SWAT**; **Chinese:** 北京特警总队; also known as **Beijing Special Police Force**^[3]) is a police unit in the **People's Republic of China** that deals with incidents beyond the capabilities of normal patrol officers such as hostage situations, high risk warrants and riot control. The unit, along with the **Snow Leopard Commando Unit**, was tasked with many of the security responsibilities of the **2008 Summer Olympics**.^[4] It is reputed to be one of the most well-equipped and well-trained of all the **SWAT/Special Police Units** in the PRC.^[5] It is under the control of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.^[6]

Contents

Beijing Special Weapons and Tactics



Arm patch of the Beijing SWAT

Active	December 2005 - Present
Country	People's Republic of China
Branch	Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China
Type	Specialized Law Enforcement

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Role	Domestic Counter-Terrorism Law Enforcement Riot control
Size	970 officers ^[1]
Part of	Under control of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau
Garrison/HQ	Beijing
Nickname(s)	SWAT, Beijing Special Police Force, Special Police Force, SPF
Engagements	2008 Beijing Olympics security duties

History [edit]

The Beijing SWAT unit and [Snow Leopard Commando Unit](#) were unveiled in a demonstration at the [Beijing Police Academy](#) on April 27, 2006 as part of a public relations effort to illustrate the capabilities of the [People's Armed Police](#) to deal with [terrorism](#) issues, protection of delegates, and to enforce law and order in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.^[7] The unit has in recent years received training and advice from Western counter-terrorist units On June 2008, the unit's 120-operator No. 1 Detachment was renamed **Blue Sword Commando Unit**.^{[2][8]}

Role [edit]

Typically expected of a [SWAT](#)-type unit from any country will be the role of a tactical response team to handle hostage-rescue, high-risk warrants, VIP or dangerous criminal escort duties and sometimes counter-terrorism and anti-riot duties.^{[1][7][9]}

Organization [edit]

The Beijing SWAT Unit is divided into sub-units consisting of but not limited to: a Helicopter Unit (飞虎队; nicknamed *Flying Tigers*), an Underwater Diving team (蛙人队; nicknamed *Frogmen*), female

SWAT unit (女子特警队) and a [Police Dog Unit](#) (警犬队).^{[1][4][10]}

Training [\[edit\]](#)

Recruits are selected from six colleges, including the Beijing Sports University and Chinese People's Public Security University.^[1] Beijing SWAT operatives are trained, aside from combat tactics, in many subjects including English, etiquette, national culture, intelligence gathering, counter-terrorism and anti-riot, anti-nuclear biochemistry.^[11] All SWAT operatives undergo psychiatric evaluation.^[1]

Weapons and equipment [\[edit\]](#)

The unit is armed with a variety of domestically manufactured weapons such as [QCW-05](#) sub-machine guns, [Type 79](#) sub-machine guns, [QBZ-95](#) assault rifles and [QSZ-92](#) pistols,^[10] although they are also known to have purchased a mixture of American and European equipment to further augment their capabilities such as [EOTech holographic weapon sights](#), [battering rams](#), [pepper spray](#), [Cornershot](#), and [ballistic shields](#) among others.^{[10][12]} A major weapon they have is the Super Talon, a [non-lethal weapon](#) that fires a 16-foot-diameter (4.9 m) nylon net at any suspect by using compressed gas.^[2]

Vehicles

In preparation for the 2008 Summer Olympics, the local government has allocated [CNY](#) 280 million for the Beijing SWAT team to procure equipment for their operations,^[11] some of which has gone into purchasing specialized vehicles for various duties. These vehicles include the American-made GA-06 anti-riot APC, [Hummer H2](#) and [Ford](#) assault vehicles, and [Mercedes](#) escort vehicles.

See also [edit]

- [Snow Leopard Commando Unit](#)
- [Special Police Unit](#)

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