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The Analysis of Special Operations Forces Activities in the World

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Abstract. Special Forces specialize in counter-terrorism, reconnaissance and sabotage and have the honor of being the most elite among the forces. They undergo extremely rigorous training for years sometimes, before they are ready and when they are done with the training, they can be easily classified as among the toughest and most competent men in the military. The article presents the analysis of the activities of the best Special Forces around the world.

Keywords: Special Operations Forces; military world; training; army forces; the selection process; military service.

Introduction. Special Forces or Special Operations Forces are military units strictly selected and intensely trained for the execution of special missions for a nation's political, economic or military purposes. With their flexible formation, these elite troops are generally led by the highest commanding military authorities and are usually well-equipped, possessing strong combat capabilities.

The origin of Special Forces dates back to the early 20th century, with fighting models set up by German Brandenburg Commandos during the Second World War (1940-1945). Nevertheless, these renowned Special Forces are always surrounded by an air of mystery as they cannot be exposed to the general public – if the general public is already aware of their existence, that is. Their daunting missions usually stretch beyond the imagination, yet their military exploits cannot be awarded. The super elite soldiers are definitely heroes [1].

Materials and methods.

The sources for this article are the authentic texts on world operations forces, its military training and special operations.

The methods used in processing the material are: method of continuous selection, method of comparative contextual analysis, method of applied analysis.

Discussion.

Countries throughout the world train special operation forces within their military, so coming up with a list of top special operations forces in the world is difficult at best. All special forces train their military men to be the best of the best, to take the impossible task and make it possible. In that respect, all Special Operations units are top. While the list below may not be everyone's top ten, some of those listed would certainly be a part of any top ten lists.

1. [Russian Spetsnaz](#) – What sets the Russian Spetsnaz apart from other specially trained special ops units around the world is their daily exposure to physical punishment. The purpose for this portion of their training is to teach them to endure physical pain and to work the mind to “enjoy” it since it is impossible to ignore it. They are permitted to leave the training anytime they desire. Their missions generally involve reconnaissance and close quarter combat. Many of the bodyguards chosen for the high-tanking political figures of Russia are chosen from the Spetsnaz.



2. [Pakistan Special Service Group](#) - This Pakistan Special Service Group (SSG) is also known as “Black Storks” a name derived from their unique headgear the “Maroon Beret”. The SSG has ten specific missions for which they are trained:



Asymmetric Warfare

- Special Operations
- Counter-Proliferation
- Unconventional Warfare
- Foreign Internal Defense
- Special Reconnaissance
- Direct Action
- Hostage Rescue
- Counter-Terrorist
- Personnel Recovery

This elite group from Pakistan is somewhat similar to the US Army's Green Berets and the British Army's SAS. They often conduct exercise missions with Special Forces from other countries such as China and the UK.

3. [Austria Eko Cobra](#) – This special ops tactical unit is involved mainly in counter-terrorism. The group retains a low profile, despite their high-speed involvement in the war on terror. In Europe, they are known for their competitive edge over other countries at S.W.A.T. and other competitions throughout Europe. Though their covert missions are carried without with little or no media, they are still considered by many as one of the best trained counter-terrorist units in the world.



4. [French Army Special Forces Brigade](#) – This French Special Ops group has one of the most rigorous qualification training programs in the world. This group is subdivided into three specially trained areas:

- 1er Régiment de Parachutistes d'Infanterie de Marin which is based in Bayonne.
- 13e Régiment de Dragons Parachutistes based in Martignas-sur-Jalle.
- 4e Régiment d'Hélicoptères des Forces Spéciales, the unit based in Pau.



5. [Polish GROM](#) – Activated in July of 1980 in response to terrorist threats, GROM is one of five Special Ops units in Poland. They are trained to respond to a variety of threats and unconventional warfare roles. Their existence was not even acknowledged by the Poland until 1994. Within five years, the group converted to a special military formation in compliance with NATO standards. They are revered among the newest members of NATO as the best commando unit.



6. [German GSG9](#) – The GSG9 is a special operations unit of the German Federal Police, specializing in counter-terrorism. The group was formed after the failed attempt of the German Police to successfully free 11 Israeli athletes who were kidnapped in Munich in 1972 during the Summer Olympic Games. They recognized, as a result, that their forces were not properly trained or equipped to handle such situations. They have since been trained in deployed in situations when hostages are taken, kidnapping is involved or in cases of terrorism or extortion.



7. [Israeli Shayetet 13](#) – This Special Ops group shares the Israeli Army motto: “Never Again”, referring to the Holocaust. Though they are one of three special units, the Shayetet 13 bears the closest resemblance to the US Army’s Delta Force. They are specially trained for rescuing hostages and in counter-terrorism. Though they remain an extremely secretive group, the most public noted mission was Operation Spring of Youth. During this operation, the Shayetet 13 went into Beirut Lebanon where they hunted down and killed all the terrorists involved in the 1972 Munich massacre of 11 Israeli athletes [2].



8. [US Army Delta Force](#) – The US Army’s Delta Force is the only official US counter-terrorism unit focused on hostage rescues, counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism. To be selected for this specialty force team, an individual must undergo a rigid physical test that begins with sit ups and push-ups and a 3 mile run – all to be completed within an undisclosed time frame. Next, the each prospective member must complete an 18-mile hike over rugged, mountainous terrain carrying a 35 lb backpack and compass, but no a map. This physically grueling entrance test does not end there. Another 45-mile hike is then required, this time with a 45 lb backpack and an even shorter time limit. Afterwards, each individual must further undergo a number of mental exams where examiners attempt to confuse and thus break the individual. Once the above requirements are successfully completed, the recruit is then permitted to enter into the actual 6 month training program for the Delta Force.



9. [US Navy SEAL Team 6 – DEVGRU](#) – The first commanding officer of SEAL Team 6 was Dick Marcinko – a US Navy representative for the Joint Chiefs of Staff task force Terrorist Action Team. The team was created in October of 1980 after a failed attempt in 1979 to rescue American hostages being held in Iran. As a result, the US Navy recognized the imminent need for a specially trained counter terrorist team. SEAL Team 6 (or currently DEVGRU – Naval Special Warfare Development Group) consists of four line squadrons – Red, Blue, Gold and Silver. The men within these units are the elite of the elite of special op forces and are trained on **Sea, air and land**, making them a well-rounded, highly trained group of individuals [3, 4].



10. [British SAS](#) – The British SAS follow the sea, air and land training of the SEALs; however their training in counter-espionage is more in-depth and complex than the SEALs. Both the SAS and SEALs receive comparable training as they sometimes work closely. They are trained in

numerous fighting techniques and remain the primary model in which most national commando units are based.

United Kingdom Special Forces Reserve UKSF(R) comprising of 21 SAS(R), 23 SAS(R), SBS(R) and 63 (SAS) Signals Sqn (R), is tasked to the highest level and can operate in difficult and often changing circumstances, sometimes in absence of guidance and within situations that have significant operational and strategic importance.

The kind of individuals required to operate successfully in these circumstances are not found in abundance. The selection process for entry into UKSF(R) seeks to identify the qualities and potential of those suitable for service within UKSF(R).

Core Requirement

At the heart of UKSF(R) are physically and mentally robust and resilient men who have the confidence, courage and skill to operate individually or in small teams, often in isolation and in a hostile environment.

Volunteers for UKSF(R)

UKSF(R) accept male volunteers who have no previous military service aged 18 to 32 or male volunteers who have had previous military service with any part of the Regular or Reserve Armed Forces (RN, RM, Army, and RAF) up to the age of 34. Volunteers must be able to commit to considerable training demands and willing to deploy overseas.

UKSF(R) Support Staff are not required to pass selection however must maintain a level of fitness and commitment. The specific trades required in support of UKSF(R) are:

Drivers, Chefs, Vehicle Mechanics and Clerical staff willing to transfer to the units.

Medical Staff are also required however they must have either previous military service with qualifications to CMT1 level or a civilian who holds a national qualification in emergency response or nursing.

Equality and Diversity

UKSF(R) operates in accordance with Government policy on the employment of women in the Armed Forces. Females are not allowed to serve with tactical sub-units however appointments do exist in administrative roles and as Special Forces Communicators [5,6].

11. Indian MARCOS

Indian MARCOS are one of the best forces present in the world, HALO and HAHO trained, Equipped with best Assault Rifles, Sniper Rifles and real-time war Equipments required. These guys are emotionally very trained and highly motivated when it comes to defending their own country. The rejection rate during the selection is as high as 98 %, that's why India has only 2000 marine commandos. Sooner or Later this special group will be on TOP and very soon the death of Pakistan (A terrorist promoting country) will be delivered by the hands of MARCOS.

Indian special forces/MARCOS- they are the one who are prepared keeping in view the worst ever situation.

Secondly, unfortunately we as India have no. Of bad experiences as terrorism, warfronts, hill terrain warfare, sea front war etc... But the good is that we are more familiar with the things, so we know better than any one how to face the situations, thus they are trained keeping in view all the things.

Thirdly India is a land of different terrain (almost all sorts are available here), so they are trained in different terrains.

Last but not least, you can come out with a strategy for a mind driven person, some powerful enemy but for an emotionally driven with the fire of enthusiasm & love for the country. You can't stop them.

The Indian MARCOS is one of the most powerful special forces on the planet. They defeat the Navy Seals in terms of physical and mental traing. In fact the only edge the Seals have over MARCOS is technology. But by 2020 when India becomes a superpower, the MARCOS will be the most powerful special force in the world [7].

Conclusion.

The above Special Ops Forces list may not be a conclusive top list for everyone. Given the number of excellently trained units around the world, they all maintain the highest integrity and require their team members to constantly challenge themselves under some of the most extreme grueling circumstances experienced by man. They must always be ready for the worst of the worst,

but who better to be ready than the best of the best. The Special Ops units above have certainly proved themselves time and again and therefore have earned them a spot on this particular list of the top ten Special Operations Forces in the world [8-12].

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