



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Border Patrol Special Operations Group

FACT SHEET

The Border Patrol recognizes the need for specialized teams capable of handling uncommon and dangerous situations. Such situations would be outside the normal scope of Border Patrol agent duties conducted while supporting the current U.S. Customs and Border Protection Strategic Plan to:

- Prevent terrorism;
- Strengthen control of the U.S. Borders;
- Protect America and its citizens

The Special Operations Group accomplishes these goals through planning, training, and deployment to domestic and international intelligence-driven and antiterrorism efforts, as well as disaster and humanitarian related special operations.

SOG provides the Department of Homeland Security, CBP and the Border Patrol with specially-trained and equipped teams capable of rapid response to emergent and uncommon law enforcement situations requiring special tactics and techniques, search and rescue, and medical response capabilities. As a highly mobile, rapid-response tool, SOG significantly increases the ability of DHS to respond operationally to specific terrorist threats and incidents, as well as supporting traditional Border Patrol operations.

SOG is comprised of three unique, specially-trained units: The Border Patrol Tactical Unit, Border Patrol Search, Trauma, and Rescue Unit, and the Border Patrol Special Response Team. Each component possesses its own history and specialized field of expertise.

These three units were strategically combined on a national level under the Border Patrol's Special Operations Division in 2007. All three units direct their nationally dispersed assets from the Special Operations Group Headquarters in El Paso, Texas. ❖



The BORTAC unit trains Central American Border Police for combat incidents.



BORSTAR team members are specially-trained for various types of water rescues.



With the assistance of the local police department , a BORSTAR unit transports a victim in distress by helicopter.