



شرطة دبي
DUBAI POLICE

THE

FEBRUARY

-

2025

-

FIRST ISSUE

CHALLENGE







Lt. General Abdulla Khalifa Al Marri
Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police

Welcome, World, to “The Challenge”

Once again, we gather for the sixth edition of the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025. This year's edition marks a milestone, as it boasts the largest number of participating teams since the global debut of the challenge in 2019. It reflects the keen interest of police and security leaderships worldwide to join the competition in the vibrant city of Dubai.

In this unified arena, tactical, specialised, and elite police units from across continents come together—not just to compete, but to exchange expertise and knowledge. These competitions embody a spirit of determination, resilience, and camaraderie as teams strive to earn points and claim their place on the podium.

Your participation over six seasons has enriched our journey in organising this prestigious global event. The vision of the challenge took shape in 2018, when His Highness Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, directed that the challenge evolve from a local initiative into an international event. This transformation aimed to enhance the capabilities of tactical teams and bring the latest advancements in the field of special forces to light.

Since then, the UAE SWAT Challenge has flourished under the boundless support of His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The inaugural competition in 2019 welcomed 61 teams from around the globe. With every subsequent edition, participation has grown steadily, drawing teams eager to compete in five highly specialised tactical disciplines.

The challenge's evolution extends beyond numbers. It has also redefined the scope of participation. In 2020, the competition welcomed its first female participant—a trailblazing member of the Chilean team—paving the way for greater female involvement. Women's teams soon followed, and this year, for the first time, we proudly host five women's teams, both local and international, alongside teams representing police academies and colleges.

With the challenge's global reputation soaring and its standards of competition and innovation rising, we anticipate an exceptional edition this year that highlights the remarkable progress of tactical teams worldwide.

We warmly welcome all police leaders, delegations, and teams to their second home, the UAE—a land of happiness, safety, and security.

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Preparing for Excellence: Competing in the UAE SWAT Challenge



By Consultant-Expert Johan W. Wessels

The UAE SWAT Challenge has emerged as one of the most prestigious and demanding international competitions for special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams. It showcases not only the skills and tactical prowess of teams but also their ability to innovate, collaborate, and excel under pressure. With global participation and high stakes, preparation is the key to standing out in this intense event. Below, we delve into essential strategies and best practices for teams aspiring to achieve excellence in the UAE SWAT Challenge.

➤ Understanding the Challenge

The UAE SWAT Challenge is a multi-faceted competition that tests physical endurance, tactical skills, decision-making under stress, and team cohesion. Events typically include:

1. Obstacle Courses:

Rigorous physical challenges designed to test stamina, strength, and agility.

2. Tactical Scenarios:

Simulated operations that require strategic planning and precision execution.

3. Marksmanship:

High-pressure shooting drills emphasizing accuracy and speed.

4. Hostage Rescue:

Scenarios that demand rapid response and meticulous teamwork.

Understanding the competition's structure and the skills required is the first step toward effective preparation. Teams can access the official website www.uaeswatchallenge.com for additional resources and updates.

➤ Building a Winning Team

Success in the UAE SWAT Challenge starts with assembling a well-rounded team. Consider the following:

• Diverse Skill Sets:

Ensure the team includes members with expertise in areas such as marksmanship, use of tactical equipment, breaching, use of special weapons, and rappelling.

• Physical Fitness:

Every member must meet rigorous physical standards. Emphasize endurance, strength, and agility training.

• Team Dynamics:

Foster a culture of trust and communication. The ability to work seamlessly as a unit is critical in high-pressure scenarios.

• Leadership Development:

Identify and nurture strong leaders within the team to guide strategy and maintain morale under pressure.

• Specialized Training Roles:

Assign specific roles based on individual strengths, such as rappelling, breaching operations, and sniper shooting.

• Cross-Training:

Encourage team members to gain proficiency in multiple disciplines to enhance flexibility and adaptability during challenges.

• Continuous Feedback:

Implement a system for regular performance reviews and constructive feedback to identify and address weaknesses.

• Morale Building:

Organize team-building exercises to strengthen camaraderie and trust, which are essential in high-stress scenarios.

➤ Training Regimen

Comprehensive and realistic training is essential. Here are key components to focus on:

1. Scenario-Based Drills:

Replicate challenge scenarios during training to build familiarity and confidence.

2. Advanced Marksmanship:

Invest in regular shooting practice under varying conditions to improve accuracy and adaptability.

3. Physical Conditioning:

Incorporate obstacle course training, endurance runs, and functional fitness routines to prepare for the physical demands.

4. Stress Management:

Train under simulated high-stress environments to enhance decision-making and composure.

5. Communication Drills

Practice clear and effective communication protocols during high-pressure scenarios to improve coordination.

6. Night Operations Training:

Conduct training under low-light or nighttime conditions to prepare for visibility challenges.

7. Equipment Familiarization:

Ensure all team members are proficient in handling and operating every piece of tactical equipment.

8. Rapid Deployment

Exercises:

Simulate situations requiring quick assembly and action to improve response time.

9. Sniper Marksmanship:

Focus on precision shooting, long-range accuracy, and target identification under varied conditions.

10. Problem-Solving Under Pressure:

Train for situations that require quick thinking and adaptability when plans do not go as expected.



➤ Leveraging Technology

Modern technology can be a game-changer in preparation. Utilize:

- **Virtual Reality (VR):**
Simulate tactical scenarios for immersive training.
- **Wearable Devices:**
Monitor fitness metrics to optimize physical conditioning.
- **AI Analysis:**
Evaluate training sessions to identify areas for improvement.
- **Smart Target Systems:**
Employ interactive target systems to refine marksmanship and decision-making.
- **Data Analytics Platforms:**
Leverage platforms to analyze performance data and identify trends and improvement areas.
- **Augmented Reality (AR):**
Integrate AR tools for enhanced situational awareness during tactical training.

➤ Tactical Innovation

Innovation is crucial in a competition that rewards creativity and adaptability. Encourage the team to:

- **Equipment:**
Experiment with new equipment or techniques.
- **Assessment:**
Study tactics used by past winners.
- **Analyse:**
Analyse videos of previous challenges to identify trends and strategies.
- **Develop Custom Solutions:**
Tailor strategies and tools specifically to your team's strengths and competition requirements.
- **Encourage Field Testing:**
Test innovative methods in real-world scenarios to gauge effectiveness and refine tactics.
- **Integrate Emerging Technologies:**
Explore new advancements such as robotics or advanced optics to gain a competitive edge.



➤ International Collaboration

The UAE SWAT Challenge attracts teams from across the globe, offering a unique opportunity to learn from others. Engage in:

- **Joint Training Exercises:**

Collaborate with other teams to exchange knowledge and techniques.

- **Workshops and Seminars:**

Participate in events that focus on advanced SWAT methodologies.

- **Cultural Exchange:**

Learn from international teams' operational styles and adapt valuable aspects to your own training.

- **Global Networking:**

Build lasting relationships with international teams to foster future collaboration and knowledge sharing.

- **Benchmarking Performance:**

Compare performance metrics with global teams to identify areas of improvement and best practices.

➤ Mental Resilience

Competing in the UAE SWAT Challenge is as much a mental game as it is physical. Strengthen mental resilience by:

- **Mindfulness:**

Practicing mindfulness and stress-relief techniques.

- **Mental Toughness:**

Building mental toughness through realistic and challenging drills.

- **Mindset:**

Encouraging a growth mindset where setbacks are seen as learning opportunities.

- **Scenario-Based Stress Training:**

Expose the team to high-pressure scenarios to normalize stress and improve composure.

- **Psychological Support:**

Provide access to professional mental health resources to address stress and maintain focus.

- **Team Resilience Building:**

Conduct exercises that foster group cohesion under stress, ensuring mutual support during challenges.

➤ Logistical Preparation

Attention to detail in logistics can make or break a team's performance. Ensure:

- **Equipment:**

All equipment is in optimal condition and complies with competition regulations.

- **Logistics:**

Travel and accommodation arrangements allow for adequate rest and acclimatization.

- **Plans:**

Contingency plans are in place for unforeseen challenges.

- **Inventory Management:**

Maintain detailed records of equipment and supplies to prevent shortages or overlooked items.

- **Pre-Event Reconnaissance:**

Familiarize the team with the competition venue and its layout to streamline operations.

- **Transportation Preparedness:**

Ensure reliable and secure transport for both personnel and equipment.

- **Time Management:**

Create a comprehensive schedule covering all aspects of preparation, travel, and competition days.

Conclusion

The UAE SWAT Challenge is more than a competition; it's a test of excellence, resilience, and teamwork. By focusing on comprehensive preparation, embracing innovation, and fostering collaboration, teams can elevate their performance and make their mark on this prestigious stage. Whether you're a seasoned contender or a first-time participant, the road to success lies in meticulous planning, relentless training, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

UAE SWAT Challenge 2 0 2 5

The Tactical Elite Unite in Dubai



Dubai proudly welcomes you to the sixth edition of the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025, a premier global event bringing together over 120 tactical teams from specialised units, rapid intervention forces, and police departments worldwide.

This remarkable event, which has grown steadily since its inception, showcases unparalleled skill, readiness, and tactical excellence on an international stage.

Hosted by Dubai Police and organised by the dedicated committee, the challenge will run from 1–5 February at Dubai Police Training City in Al Ruwayyah, where five thrilling challenges await the participating teams.

› A Legacy of Growth and Inclusion

Since its launch in 2019, under the guidance of His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, the UAE SWAT Challenge has become the largest event of its kind. Each year, it has drawn increased participation from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, with this edition set to be the largest yet.

Reflecting the progressive vision of the UAE, the challenge continues to break barriers by welcoming both male and female tactical teams. This inclusivity enhances the competition, with teams demonstrating extraordinary talent and readiness across all disciplines.

› Five Challenges That Demand Tactical Brilliance

The UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 features five main competitions designed to test every aspect of tactical operations:

- Tactical Operations
- Assault
- Officer Rescue
- High Tower
- Obstacle Course

These events require not only advanced strategies but also exceptional physical and mental endurance. Each day, teams will accumulate points, with the highest performers earning the honour of standing on the podium and claiming trophies and medals.



➤ Dubai Police: Ensuring Excellence

The Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, His Excellency Lieutenant General Abdulla Khalifa Al Marri, highlighted the significance of this event, stating: “This challenge is not only a test of skill but also a platform for innovation, collaboration, and progress. Dubai Police has committed its full resources to ensure that the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 reflects the UAE’s reputation for hosting exceptional global events.”

Lt. General Al Marri also commended the dedication and creativity shown by participants in previous years, noting that their excellence has been pivotal in building the global reputation of the UAE SWAT Challenge.

➤ A Platform for Progress and Unity

Brigadier Obaid Mubarak Al Ketbi, Chairman of the Organising Committee, outlined the event’s core goals:

- Promoting healthy competition among teams.
- Fostering global knowledge exchange in tactical operations.
- Introducing innovative practices in rapid intervention strategies.
- Evaluating readiness and efficiency under pressure.

Brigadier Al Ketbi emphasised the immense growth of the event over the years. “From its first edition with 61 teams in 2019 to more than 100 teams this year, the UAE SWAT Challenge has become a symbol of tactical excellence and collaboration,” he said.



› A Look Back at Previous Editions

The UAE SWAT Challenge's growth has been remarkable:

- 2019 (1st edition): 61 teams
- 2020: 46 teams
- 2022: 34 teams
- 2023: 55 teams
- 2024: 73 teams

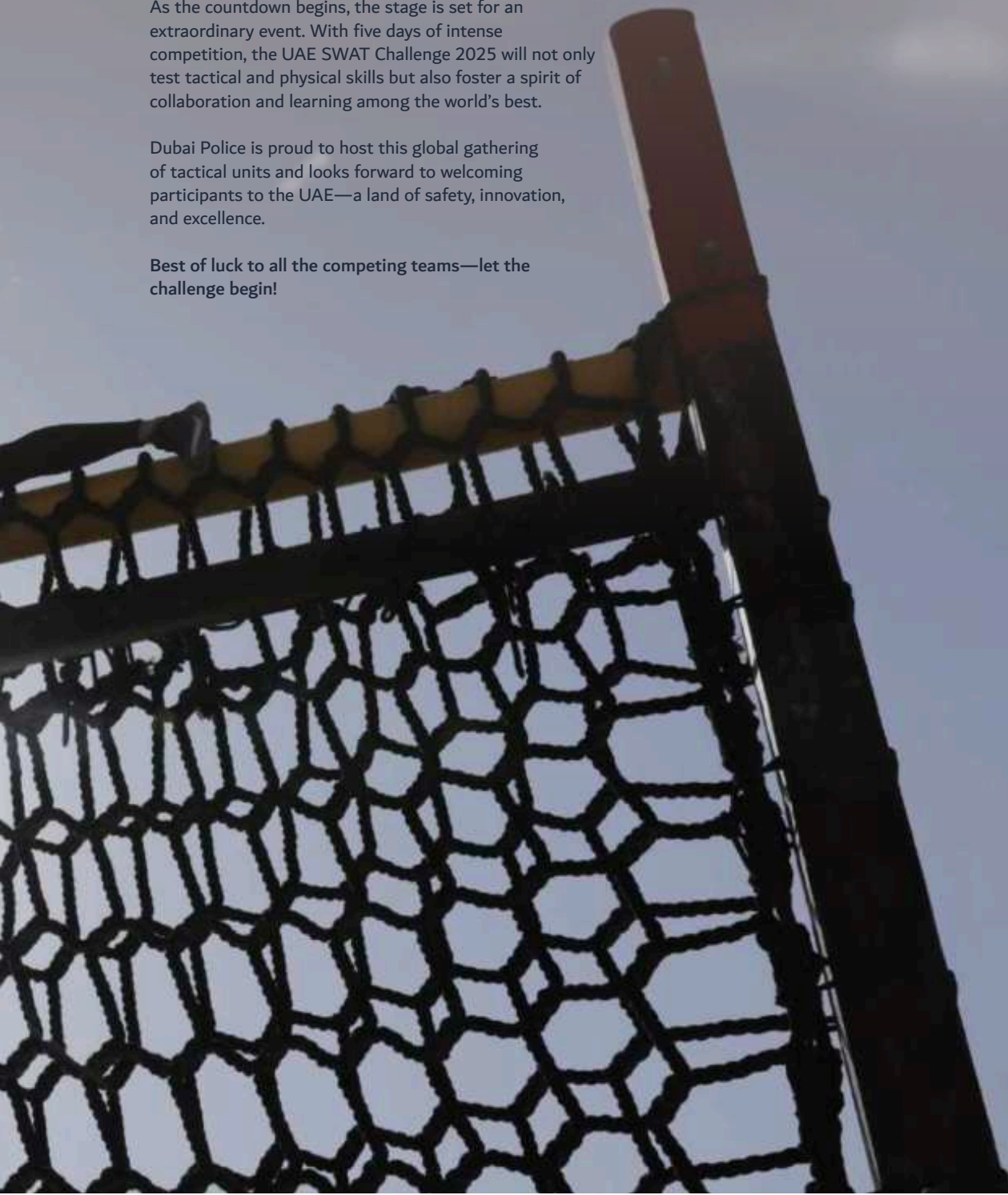
With over 100 teams already registered for 2025, the event continues to grow in scale, reputation, and inclusivity.

› Gear Up for the Challenge

As the countdown begins, the stage is set for an extraordinary event. With five days of intense competition, the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 will not only test tactical and physical skills but also foster a spirit of collaboration and learning among the world's best.

Dubai Police is proud to host this global gathering of tactical units and looks forward to welcoming participants to the UAE—a land of safety, innovation, and excellence.

Best of luck to all the competing teams—let the challenge begin!









Dubai Police Teams Ready to Defend Their Title at UAE SWAT Challenge 2025

Lieutenant Yasser Al Zarouni, Manager of the Dubai Police tactical teams and leader of last year's champions, has confirmed the readiness of Dubai Police's squads for this year's highly competitive UAE SWAT Challenge 2025. Following intensive preparations and a focused training camp, the teams are determined to defend their title and maintain their dominance in the competition, which is expected to be more challenging due to the increased number of participating teams.



› Last Year's Success

In the 2024 edition, Dubai Police teams swept the podium, with Team Dubai Police B clinching first place in the overall standings with 325 points. Team Dubai Police A secured second place with 303 points, while Kazakhstan's Sardar Team claimed third with 302 points.

› This Year's Line-Up

Dubai Police is fielding an impressive six teams in this year's competition:

- The two main teams, A and B
- The Dubai Police Women's Team
- Three teams from Dubai Police Academy

Lieutenant Al Zarouni highlighted the unwavering support of Lt. General Abdullah Khalifa Al Marri, Commander-in-Chief of Dubai Police, which has been instrumental in preparing the teams for what promises to be an intense and competitive event.

› Focused Preparation and Tactical Readiness

To ensure their readiness, the two main Dubai Police teams underwent comprehensive training programmes focused on:

- Physical fitness and endurance
- Obstacle challenges and tactical drills
- Correcting tactical errors and refining strategies

Lieutenant Al Zarouni explained that these rigorous

preparations have strengthened the teams' ability to adapt to and overcome any obstacles they may face during the challenges.

› An Intense Year of Competition

With many countries increasing their preparations by conducting intensive training camps and simulating challenge scenarios, the competition is expected to reach new heights this year. Lieutenant Al Zarouni emphasised that this level of preparation demands precision and focus from all teams as they work to accumulate points and excel in every tactical mission.





KAZAKHSTAN

Returns Stronger Than Ever to UAE SWAT Challenge 2025

Kazakhstan is making its presence known at the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025, fielding an impressive 12 teams from various security and police agencies. Following their exceptional performance in last year's edition, where Team Sardar Kazakhstan clinched third place overall, the country is ready to elevate its game further.

► Leading the Pack

This year, Kazakhstan boasts the largest representation by a single nation, a testament to their commitment to tactical excellence. Rigorous preparations have ensured their teams are physically and tactically ready to take on the competition. From early training regimens to stringent selection processes, Kazakhstan's approach highlights their dedication to achieving greatness.

► Building on Last Year's Achievements

In the 2024 edition, Kazakhstan's Team Sardar earned third place overall with 302 points, closely trailing Dubai Police's B team (325 points) and A team (303 points). Kazakhstan's teams also showcased dominance in individual events, including:

- Officer Rescue Challenge: Teams Sonkar and Sardar finished first and second, earning 73 and 72 points, respectively.
- Tower Challenge: Team Sardar secured third place with 70 points, following Russia's Akhmat team and Kyrgyzstan's Kalkan team.
- Obstacle Challenge and Tactical Competition: Team Sardar also earned third place in both categories.

These performances solidify Kazakhstan's position as a formidable competitor in the global tactical arena.



➤ Ready for the Challenge

As the competition unfolds at Dubai Police's Training City in Al Ruwayyah, Kazakhstan's teams are eager to showcase their skills and compete for top honours in the five main challenges. Their return reflects not only their growing prominence but also their dedication to pushing the limits of tactical expertise.

The action has begun—let's see if Kazakhstan can climb even higher!







18 Emirati Teams

Compete at UAE SWAT Challenge 2025

This year's UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 sees an impressive participation of 18 Emirati teams, reflecting a significant increase from the 11 teams that competed last year. This surge highlights the UAE's growing commitment to tactical innovation and excellence in the field.



› The Numbers Speak

The participating teams represent a wide range of UAE police and security forces:

- 6 teams from Dubai Police, including three from Dubai Police Academy
- 3 teams from Abu Dhabi Police
- 2 teams from the Ministry of Interior
- 3 teams from the Police College of MoI
- 1 team from Ajman Police
- 1 team from Fujairah Police
- 1 team from Ras Al Khaimah Police
- 1 team from the National Guard

Both male and female members are competing, with each team rigorously selected and prepared to showcase their skills across the challenge's demanding events.

› Proven Competitors

Emirati teams have built a legacy of excellence in the UAE SWAT Challenge, regularly achieving top-three finishes in both individual events and overall rankings. Their consistent performance underscores their expertise and readiness to take on the world's best.

› Aiming Higher

As the competition unfolds, the Emirati teams are poised to make an impact, continuing their tradition of excellence while raising the bar for future challenges. With their numbers, skill, and determination, they are set to demonstrate why the UAE is a global leader in tactical capabilities.





The Obstacle Champion Returns

As the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 unfolds, the African teams have made their presence known, bringing exceptional skill and determination to the competition. Among them is last year's Obstacle Course champion, the Rwandan tactical team, which claimed victory in 2024 with an outstanding 52 points, narrowly surpassing Kalcan from Kyrgyzstan with 51 points, and Uzbekistan with 50 points.

This year, Rwanda is back with two teams, ready to defend their title and prove their dominance in the obstacle course challenge.



Africa's Strong Representation

The African contingent in this year's challenge includes:

- 2 teams from Rwanda
- 2 teams from Nigeria
- 2 teams from South Africa
- 1 team from Guyana
- 3 teams from Kenya
- 1 team from Euthopia

These teams have come prepared, following months of intense training and meticulous selection of their top performers. Their participation highlights Africa's growing prominence in the world of tactical competitions.





UAE

BRAZIL'S SWAT

Icons of Resilience and



SWAT

VETERANS

True Champions





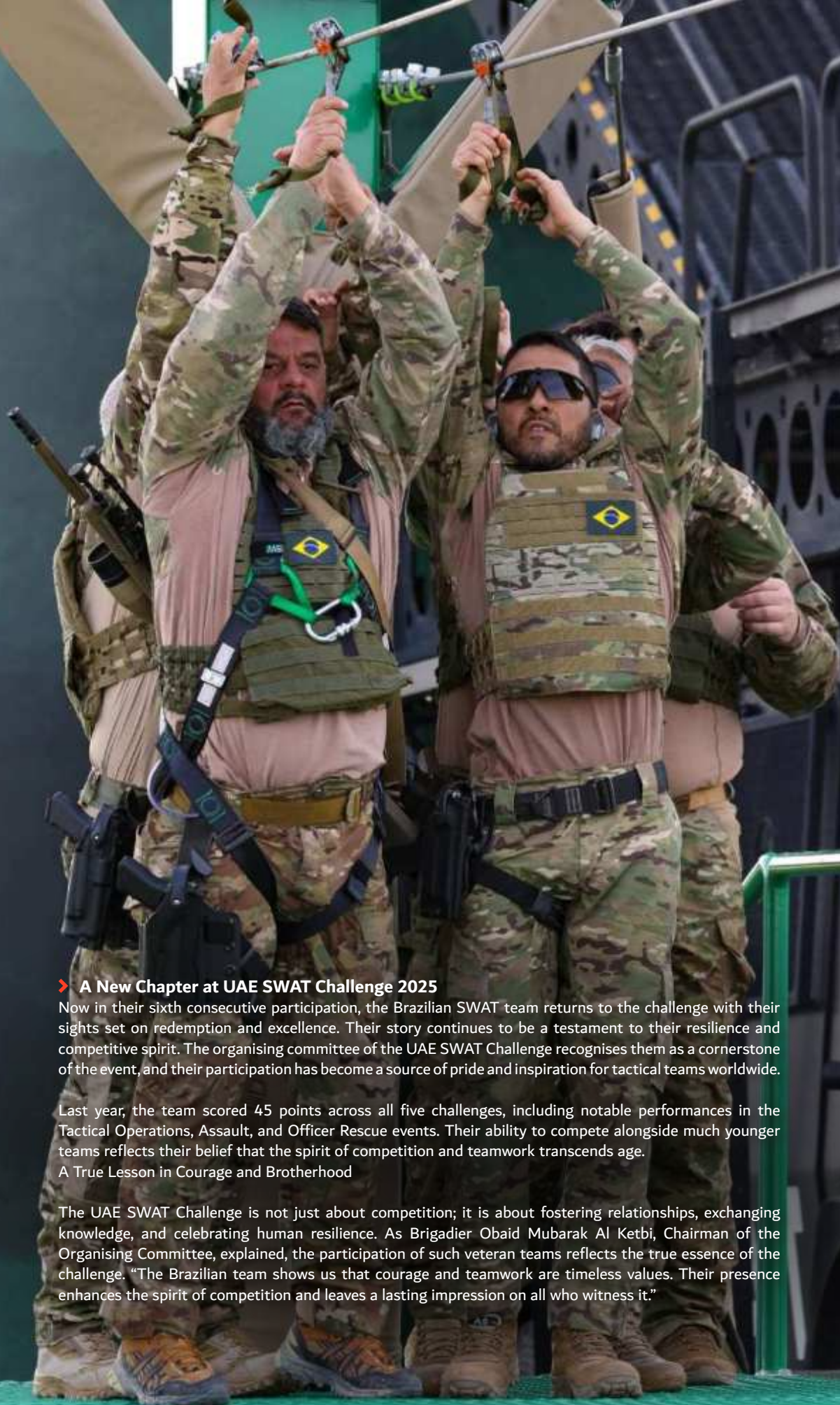
The Brazilian SWAT team has become one of the most admired participants in the UAE SWAT Challenge, inspiring both competitors and audiences with their unwavering determination and spirit. Their story combines decades of dedicated service, six consecutive participations in the event, and unforgettable moments that epitomise what it means to be true champions.

➤ **A Legacy of Dedication and Skill**

Hailing from São Paulo, the Brazilian SWAT team consists of veteran officers, most aged over 50, who have spent their lives combating organised crime and safeguarding their communities. With a reputation as icons of the UAE SWAT Challenge, they have demonstrated that age is no barrier to achieving greatness.

In previous editions, they have actively participated in every challenge, including the Hostage Rescue, Assault, Officer Rescue, High Tower, and Obstacle Course events. Their presence and performances are marked by perseverance, meticulous preparation, and an unrelenting passion for competition.

Last year, the team faced an unexpected setback during the Obstacle Course, where an injury prevented them from completing the event. Instead of retreating silently, the team chose to bow their heads, apologise, and gracefully withdraw—a decision that earned them immense respect and admiration. As the team's shirts say: "Beware of an old man in a profession where men usually die young."



➤ **A New Chapter at UAE SWAT Challenge 2025**

Now in their sixth consecutive participation, the Brazilian SWAT team returns to the challenge with their sights set on redemption and excellence. Their story continues to be a testament to their resilience and competitive spirit. The organising committee of the UAE SWAT Challenge recognises them as a cornerstone of the event, and their participation has become a source of pride and inspiration for tactical teams worldwide.

Last year, the team scored 45 points across all five challenges, including notable performances in the Tactical Operations, Assault, and Officer Rescue events. Their ability to compete alongside much younger teams reflects their belief that the spirit of competition and teamwork transcends age.

A True Lesson in Courage and Brotherhood

The UAE SWAT Challenge is not just about competition; it is about fostering relationships, exchanging knowledge, and celebrating human resilience. As Brigadier Obaid Mubarak Al Ketbi, Chairman of the Organising Committee, explained, the participation of such veteran teams reflects the true essence of the challenge. "The Brazilian team shows us that courage and teamwork are timeless values. Their presence enhances the spirit of competition and leaves a lasting impression on all who witness it."





Arab Teams Showcase Tactical Excellence at the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025

The UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 is bringing together 11 elite Arab teams, each showcasing their tactical mastery and dedication to excellence. Representing the finest in specialised units, these teams are set to impress with their skills, teamwork, and precision.

A Diverse and Determined Line-Up

This year's Arab contingent features teams from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Oman, Jordan, Bahrain, and Kuwait. Through rigorous preparation, these teams have honed their abilities, combining physical strength with advanced tactical strategies. Their focus and discipline ensure they are ready to rise to the occasion.

Building on Regional Success

Arab teams have consistently made their mark in previous editions, and their presence in the sixth edition is no exception. This year's participants have pushed their preparation even further, carefully selecting top-performing individuals after intense training and evaluations. Their mission is clear: to inspire, excel, and elevate the competition.







South Africa Showcases Tactical Expertise at UAE SWAT Challenge 2025

As the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 unfolds, over 100 elite tactical teams from around the world converge in Dubai for a week of unparalleled competition and skill exchange. Among these is the South African Police Services (SAPS) team, showcasing their readiness and expertise on the global stage.

Comprehensive Preparation for Tactical Excellence

Colonel GC Barties, Commander of Special Force Operations for SAPS, highlighted the team's meticulous preparations. "Our training is multifaceted," he explained, "encompassing physical conditioning, tactical drills, situational exercises, and specialised skills like shooting accuracy, forced entry, and descending techniques."

The team also takes lessons from past performances to refine strategies, balancing their operational duties with competition readiness. This approach ensures they are primed for both real-world scenarios and the high-pressure environment of the challenge.

Networking and Learning on a Global Stage

For Colonel Barties, the event is more than a competition—it's an opportunity for global collaboration. "The UAE SWAT Challenge provides a unique platform to benchmark our capabilities against the best, explore diverse tactical methodologies, and strengthen bonds within the global law enforcement community," he said.

Key Attributes of a Successful SWAT Unit

When asked about the essential qualities of a tactical team, Colonel Barties emphasised physical fitness, psychological resilience, adaptability, and teamwork. He noted that the ability to stay calm and effective under pressure is a defining trait for success in both competitions and real-world operations.



“The UAE SWAT Challenge provides a unique platform to benchmark our capabilities against the best”

Excelling in Key Events

The South African team is particularly looking forward to events like the Tower Challenge, Assault Challenges, and the Obstacle Course. “These segments push us beyond routine training, offering valuable learning opportunities,” Colonel Barties said.

The team has also evolved its strategies based on past performances. Reflecting on lessons learned, Colonel Barties shared, “We’ve adjusted our approach to improve collaboration and prioritise areas where we faced challenges, particularly in event 3, which is our key focus this year.”

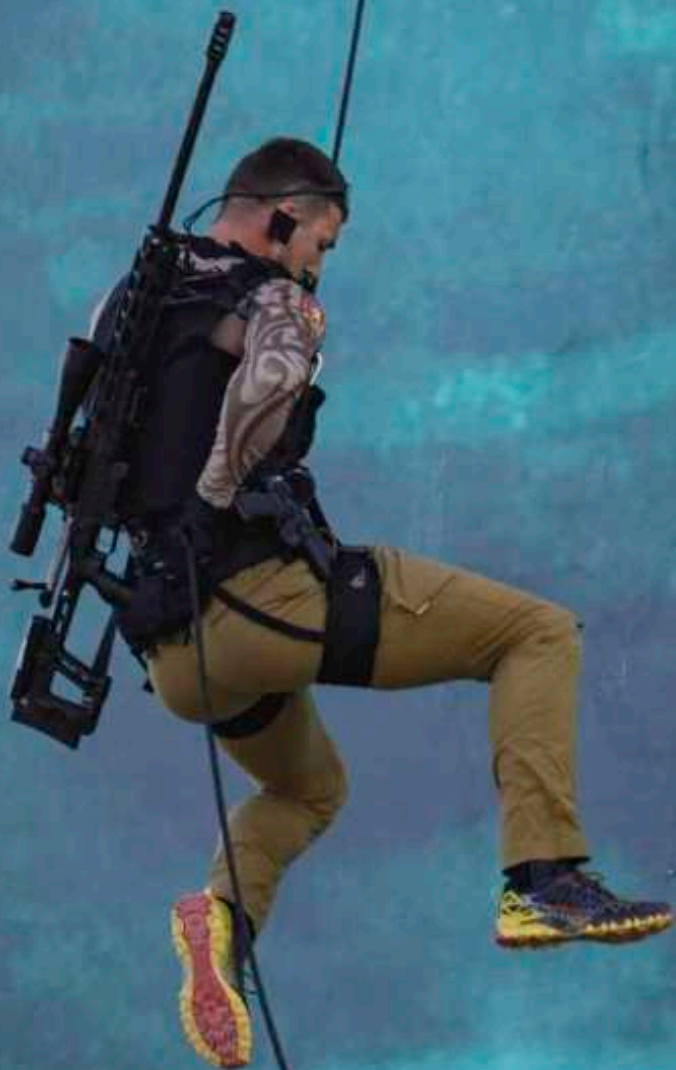
A Global Platform for Excellence

With over 100 specialised teams registered, the UAE SWAT Challenge continues to attract the best in law enforcement, offering a platform to showcase tactical innovation and expertise. “The event’s growth is remarkable, with more international teams, advanced technology, and increasingly competitive standards,” Colonel Barties remarked.

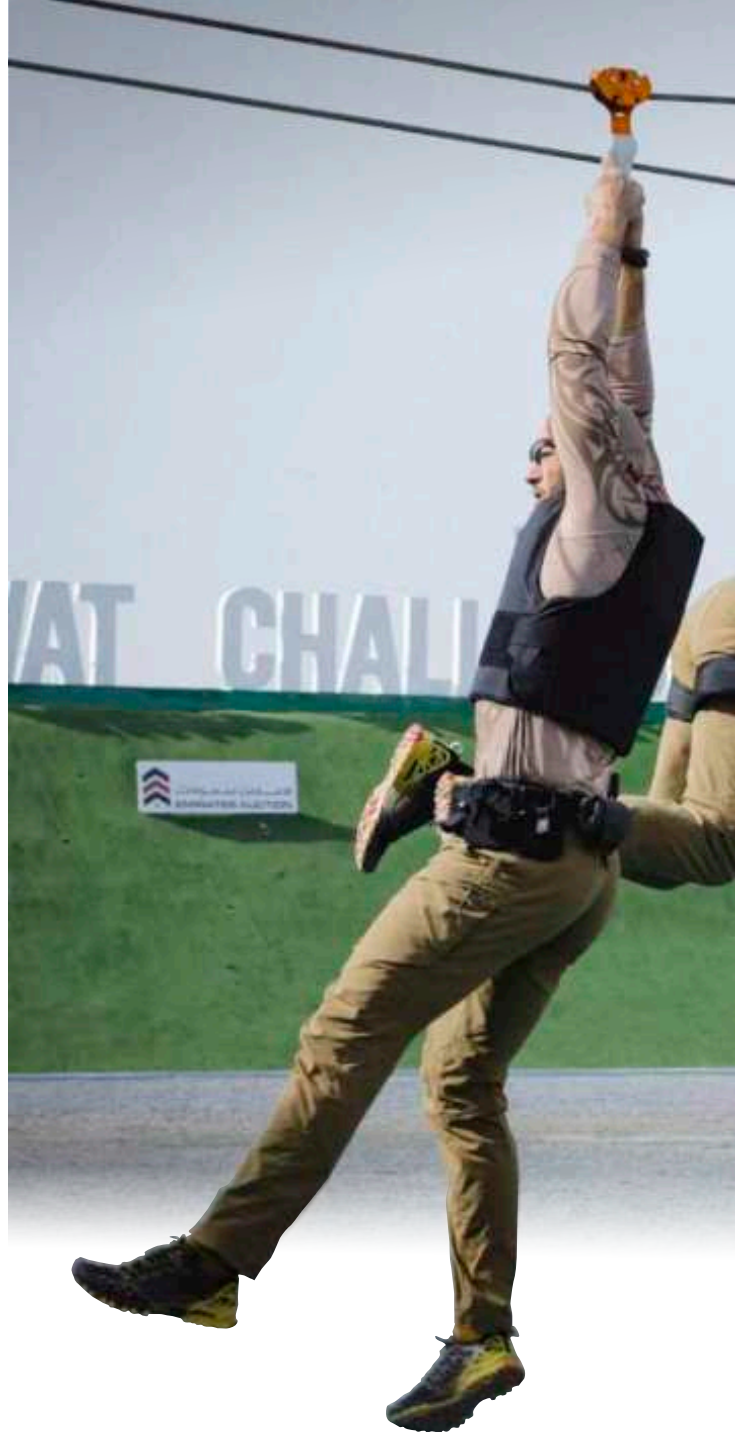
“the ability to stay calm and effective under pressure is a defining trait for success in both competitions and real-world operations”



Moldova's SPPS Team: Adapting and Excelling at the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025



The State Protection and Guard Service (SPPS) Team from Moldova has brought its refined strategies and unwavering determination to the sixth edition of the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025, highlighting the event's growing diversity and competitiveness. With a focus on innovation and evolving tactics, the SPPS team is prepared to showcase its expertise and resilience in this year's high-stakes competition.



Evolving Strategies for a Competitive Edge

Reflecting on their experiences in previous editions, the SPPS team has continuously adapted its approach to meet the increasing challenges of the competition. "The UAE SWAT Challenge pushes us to refine our strategies and focus on realistic scenarios," they shared.

The team has placed a strong emphasis on coordination and teamwork under pressure, recognising that seamless communication and quick decision-making are vital for success in the fast-paced challenges. Their training is now more aligned with real-world scenarios, designed to prepare them for the unexpected.



Comprehensive Training for Tactical Excellence

In preparation for the challenge, the SPPS team has implemented an intensive training programme that addresses all aspects of the competition. This regimen includes:

- Realistic intervention scenarios to enhance decision-making under pressure.
- Advanced tactics, techniques, and methods tailored for high-risk situations.
- A sustainable approach to ensure readiness throughout the competition.

Their efforts aim to improve both individual and team performance, ensuring they are ready to compete at the highest level.

A Platform for Growth and Modernisation

The SPPS team sees the UAE SWAT Challenge as an opportunity to gain valuable insights and elevate their capabilities. "Participating in this competition allows us to exchange knowledge with the world's best SWAT teams while

modernising our intervention tactics in risk scenarios," they noted. This global platform also provides Moldova with a chance to promote its institutional image abroad, showcasing the professionalism and expertise of its tactical teams.

Essential Qualities of a SWAT Team

The SPPS team highlighted the critical attributes needed for success in both competitions and real-world operations, including:

- Tactical proficiency in handling firearms and specialised equipment.
- Crisis management skills to make quick and effective decisions.
- Strategic planning for executing missions with precision and coordination.
- Adaptability, as high-risk situations require flexibility and real-time adjustments to strategies.

As the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 progresses, the SPPS team from Moldova is ready to test its skills, share knowledge, and represent their nation with pride.



Women Tactical Teams Excel at the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025





The UAE SWAT Challenge 2025 proudly features five all-women teams, showcasing the vital contributions of female officers in tactical operations worldwide. The competition, which began on 1 February at Al Ruwayyah Training City in Dubai, highlights the growing inclusion of women in this specialised field.



A Blend of Local and International Talent

This year's participants include two UAE teams—the Dubai Police Women's Team and the Abu Dhabi Police Women's Team—alongside international teams from Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Thailand. Their presence reflects a shared commitment to advancing diversity and excellence in law enforcement globally.

Building on Past Success

The inclusion of five women's teams continues the momentum established in previous editions. Last year's competition featured strong performances from the Abu Dhabi Police Women's Team, Dubai Police Women's Team, and international squads from Belarus, Chile, and Thailand.

The organising committee highlighted the valuable contributions that women's teams bring to the competition, from showcasing their skills to adopting innovative tactical practices. They extended their best wishes to all participants as they work to achieve outstanding results and gain further experience in rapid response operations.



Serbia's Tactical Excellence: Competing Among the World's Best



The Special Anti-Terrorist Unit (SAJ) and the Gendarmerie Team from Serbia are once again making their mark at the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025, a prestigious event that has become a global stage for testing and showcasing tactical capabilities. Competing against the best tactical and rapid-response units worldwide, the Serbian teams view this event as both an honour and a significant opportunity to refine their skills.

➤ A Platform for Growth and Development

The Serbian teams emphasise that participating in the UAE SWAT Challenge has profound benefits, from enhancing physical and mental readiness to developing real-world tactical skills. "This competition is not only about winning; it's a valuable opportunity to measure our abilities against the world's elite units," said a representative from SAJ.

The teams also highlighted the importance of team coordination and individual adaptability, with preparation focusing on intense daily training, shooting drills, and scenario-based exercises. These efforts aim to improve performance under pressure and prepare the teams for real-world high-risk operations.

➤ Evolving with the Challenge

For this year's competition, Serbia's tactical teams implemented significant changes in their preparation compared to previous years. "We began our training earlier and focused on the smallest details to maximise our points," said the SAJ team leader. "Every year is a new story of challenges and experiences, and each one adds to our expertise."

Similarly, the Gendarmerie team in Serbia adopted a comprehensive preparation plan, including:

- Physical conditioning and advanced shooting drills.
- Enhanced team coordination for competition-specific scenarios.
- Improved focus on psychological resilience to handle critical decision-making under pressure.

These refined strategies reflect their understanding that the UAE SWAT Challenge requires not only physical strength but also precision, adaptability, and seamless teamwork.

➤ Key Attributes of Tactical Teams

The Serbian teams shared their insights into the essential qualities required for successful rapid-response units:

- Mental and physical stability to perform effectively in high-pressure situations.
- Clear understanding of individual roles to ensure seamless teamwork.
- Precision and accuracy in weapon handling and execution of tasks.
- Professionalism and coordination to tackle complex, high-risk operations.

➤ Continuous Growth in the UAE SWAT Challenge

The Serbian teams acknowledged the continuous evolution of the UAE SWAT Challenge. "The introduction of new weapons, enhanced rewards, and an increasing number of participants reflect the event's growth and its importance on the global stage," said a representative from the Gendarmerie team.

They added that participating in this event fosters collaboration, allowing teams to exchange experiences and learn from others in similar fields. "It's not just about the competition; it's about building bridges and enhancing tactical expertise."

As Serbia's teams compete in the UAE SWAT Challenge 2025, their preparation, adaptability, and commitment to excellence shine through.



Excitement and Community Spirit Shine at the UAE SWAT Challenge

The UAE SWAT Challenge continues to captivate audiences, with vibrant competitions and a family-friendly atmosphere creating unforgettable memories for participants and spectators alike. Last year's fifth edition saw a massive turnout from citizens, residents, and visitors, who gathered to cheer on their home teams amidst a thrilling and festive environment.





› A Celebration of Team Spirit

The event's opening ceremony was a spectacle, featuring dazzling fireworks displays that set the tone for the high-energy competitions held at Al Ruwayyah Training City. Live broadcasts and media coverage ensured that the excitement reached a wider audience, while fans on-site waved their national flags and enthusiastically cheered for their countries' teams as they vied for top honours.

For many, it wasn't just about the competition. Spectators enjoyed meeting tactical team members, taking photos with them, and celebrating the diversity of participants from across the globe.

› Children Steal the Spotlight

One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the participation of children. Dressed in military uniforms representing police and security forces from various countries, children proudly celebrated their heritage and posed for pictures with police leaders and team members.

Parents expressed their pride in bringing their children to the event, seeing it as an opportunity to instil national identity

and inspire future aspirations. "We wanted our kids to wear military uniforms to celebrate their roots and connect with their country's participation," shared one Emirati parent.

› Global Fans Join the Fun

Spectators from around the world shared their enthusiasm for the challenge. José Rodríguez from Colombia attended the event with his family to support their national team. "It's exciting to watch my country compete on such a big stage," he said.

Similarly, Aid, a young Thai visitor, came with his family to cheer for his country's two teams, one male and one female. He described being impressed by the male team's speed during their mission and eagerly awaited the female team's performance.

› Inspiring Young Minds

Among the local fans was Emirati child Faris Al Kaabi, who attended the event with his mother and siblings. "Watching the police teams compete is so exciting," he said, adding that the fireworks at the opening ceremony were a highlight for him.



10 Sniper Field**13** Media & Judges**P** Parking**11** Weapon Storage**14** Service Tent**+** Medical**12** Safety Zone**♂ ♀** Toilets**🚒** Fire & Rescue

The Field

01 Viewing Area**02** Event Zone**03** Event Zone**04** Obstacle Course**05** Sponsors Zone**06** F&B**07** Team Tents**08** Village & Vendors**09** Registration