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SA COPS GET US SPECIAL FORCES TRAINING

A group of elite police officers are currently undergoing special forces training in the United States, the US Diplomatic Mission to South Africa said in a statement on Monday.

"The five-week Crisis Response Training is to provide the tactical officers with skills required to resolve high risk confrontations with criminals and possible terror situations," said spokeswoman Elizabeth Kennedy Trudeau.

The officers would be equipped with skills they could use with the focus on the minimum force necessary to protect human life, she said.

These included hands-on outdoor firearms training, raid and assault simulations, as well as other standard crisis response skills for use in an urban environment.

"This training represents a continuation of the US government's commitment to partnership with South Africa," said diplomatic representative Helen La Lime.

"Our partnership with the SAPS is robust, and this training reflects our solid bilateral relationship. We look forward to pursuing more partnership opportunities."

Said Brigadier Lucky Mkhwanazi of the SAPS Special Task Force: "This training recognises the calibre of our elite Special Task Force officers and also the solid relationship in law enforcement South Africa has with the United States."

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