



2019 SPEAR Summit Challenge

SPEAR Summit Challenge

The “Summit Challenge” begins December 2nd and is a five-day tactical law enforcement training/competition for Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) teams, which are quick-response forces trained and funded by the Diplomatic Security Service’s Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA). SPEAR teams respond rapidly to crises involving U.S. diplomatic facilities or personnel.

The competition covers tactical-response skills such as weapons and range familiarization; tactical medicine, locating and evacuating personnel during an emergency; IED recognition; and moving as a team through an obstacle course.

2019 Participants

SPEAR teams from Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Tunisia, and South Sudan will participate in the event. Although Senegal currently has no SPEAR team, law enforcement officers from its National Police and Gendarmerie will also participate.

Venue

DSS is holding the 2019 SPEAR Summit Challenge at the Regional Tactical Training Center in Thiès, Senegal. The training center, which was funded, constructed, and equipped through the Department of State’s ATA program, is ATA’s first regional training facility in West Africa. It is co-located at a Senegalese military training center.

About SPEAR

SPEAR enhances the security of U.S. diplomatic posts in high-threat, high-risk environments by training specially chosen law enforcement officers of host nations to better respond to emergencies at U.S. diplomatic facilities. Due to their training and proximity, these quick response forces **can respond within minutes** to emergencies and threats, and provide additional security support for a U.S. mission overseas.

SPEAR members receive specific training to provide them the skills they need to become part of quick-response forces. They also receive equipment loans and training to assist with their mission. SPEAR teams also participate in multinational joint readiness exercises and training exercises managed by U.S. security assets at diplomatic facilities, such as U.S. Marine Security Guards, embassy bodyguards, and local guard forces.

DSS established SPEAR in 2014.

About ATA

Established by Congress in 1983, the Department of State’s ATA program is the U.S. government’s premier counterterrorism training and equipment provider for specialized police units in friendly foreign nations. The ATA program has evolved into a key pillar of the U.S. counterterrorism strategy, partnering with 154 nations. ATA is funded by the Bureau of Counterterrorism and implemented by DSS.

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