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# **S.R.T. DIVER**

## **A GUIDE FOR SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAMS**

*by*

**Mark V. Lonsdale**



**S.T.T.U.**

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Several chapters in this book assume that the reader has read previous chapters. It is recommended that the book be read from start to finish, then the reader is free to use individual chapters for reference. For example, Underwater Investigation (Chapter 16) is also touched on in the chapters on Search, Photography, Penetration and Recovery.

SRTU training programs place maximum emphasis on tried and proven methods and continuous hard work. For a team to have a high degree of success in diving operations, their priorities must include highly trained and physically fit individuals, regular training days and ruggedly simple equipment. A team that places undue emphasis on high-tech gear and "gadgets" is doomed to fail in the face of adversity.

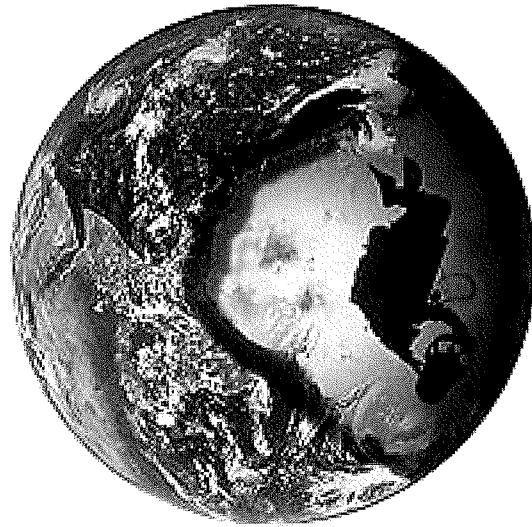
A law enforcement diving team will often have more applicants than they have available slots. A selection process must be initiated to eliminate all but the fittest and most motivated team players. The fact that an individual may really like diving and have his own gear does not automatically qualify him for the rigors of an SRT team. If SRTU has noted one thing over the last few years, that is the number of overweight, unfit individuals that enjoy "playing" on an SRT team. The team, the individual divers and the agency cannot afford the liability of weak personnel involved in hazardous operations.

With the intense pressure placed on an SRT team by the ever-present news media and a concerned public, it is essential that teams constantly strive to expand their knowledge and hone their skills. Hopefully SRT DIVER will help in the first instance and SRTU can help in the second.

Mark V. Lonsdale

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