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NEWS RELEASE

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12th Annual Law Enforcement SWAT Competition Will be Held Oct. 12 at HPD's Training Facility

The Harrisonburg Police Department will host its 12th Southeastern Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Competition on Friday, Oct. 12. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Harper-Prestraves Regional Training Center off Greendale Road.

Law enforcement teams from agencies in Virginia and South Carolina will participate. The event is funded entirely by local grants and team fees.

"This type of competition gives law enforcement officers a significant—and perhaps only—way to test the physical, technical and decision-making skills they are called on to use in critical operations," says Capt. T. D. Hoover, who commands the Harrisonburg Police Department's SWAT team.

"Competition induces stress that mimics the pressure officers are under when dealing with real crises," Hoover adds.

Friday's events will challenge officers in these areas:

- Teamwork and decision making,
- Physical agility and endurance,
- Short- and long-range pistol and rifle marksmanship,
- Officer and hostage high-risk rescues, and
- Maneuvering through the obstacle course.

"The competition originated as a way to bring together SWAT teams from surrounding jurisdictions in a setting that would advance their training and promote coordinated operations," Capt. Hoover explains.

“It also serves as a networking opportunity and clearinghouse for new ideas in equipment, tactics and skills that officers can employ in dealing with critical situations,” Hoover adds.

Teams will compete for top ranking in the individual events as well as first place overall. In 2011, the Athens-Clarke County, Georgia Police Department SWAT team placed first overall. Teams registered for this year’s event include those from:

- Alexandria Police Department, VA
- Chesterfield Police Department, VA
- Spotsylvania County Sheriff’s Office, VA
- Roanoke Police Department, VA
- Charlottesville Police Department, VA
- Augusta County Sheriff’s Office, VA

Harrisonburg-based TSSI, a major supporter of the SWAT competition from its inception, will host a charity golf tournament on Thursday, Oct. 11, at Spotswood Country Club. Proceeds will benefit C.O.P. S. (Concerns of Police Survivors). Last year the golf event raised more than \$20,000 for the charity.

NOTE to media representatives:

- ***If you plan to attend the event, please contact Mary-Hope Vass ASAP. Officials will be available to the media on site throughout the day for interviews and photographs.***
- ***Please bring eye and hearing protection.***
- ***We hope to make time during the day for some of you to experience first-hand aspects of the competition. If you are interested, please let Mary-Hope know.***

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