

Harrisonburg
VIRGINIA



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HPD Hosts 13th Annual Law Enforcement SWAT Competition

October 2, 2013

The Harrisonburg Police Department will host its 13th annual Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Competition on Friday, Oct. 4. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Harper-Presgrave Regional Training Center off Greendale Road.

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

“This type of competition gives law enforcement officers a significant—and perhaps only—way to test their ability to operate as a team in a stressful situation,” says Captain Tom 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. “We tell our officers that they never know where their badge might take them.”

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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.

Teams will compete for top ranking in the individual events as well as first place overall. In 2012, the Chesterfield County Police Department SWAT team placed first overall. Teams registered for this year's event include those from:

- Albemarle County Sheriff's Office, VA
- Alexandria Police Department, VA
- Athens Clarke County Police Department, VA
- Chesterfield County Police Department, VA
- Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office, VA
- Farmville Detention Center, VA
- Richmond Police Department, VA
- Roanoke Police Department, VA
- Staunton Police Department, VA
- Waynesboro Police Department, VA

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.***