



For Immediate Release
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HPD Hosts 14th SWAT Competition Friday, Oct.24 At Harper-Presgrave Police Training Facility

The Harrisonburg Police Department will host the 14th Annual Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Conference on Friday, Oct. 24. The event will begin at 8 a.m. at the Harper-Presgrave Regional Training Center off Greendale Road.

Law enforcement teams that are expected to compete represent agencies in the local area as well as elsewhere in Virginia, West Point Academy out of New York, and the National Capital Region. The event is funded in part by local donations and team registration fees. The continued relationship between the Harrisonburg Police Department and local business TSSi has been a mainstay for the continued success of the conference. TSSi has been a large contributor to the competitions over the last fourteen years.

The conference is primarily a training opportunity designed to challenge SWAT officers to excel in a variety of skills under pressure.

“SWAT teams typically are called on to deal with exceedingly dangerous situations,” says Capt. T.D. Hoover, commander of the Harrisonburg SWAT team. “Conferences like this allow law enforcement officers to test the physical,



technical, communications and decision-making skills they may be called upon to use in critical operations.”

In a series of events on Friday, SWAT officers will be rated on a variety of topics, including:

- 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.

In the event of a major incident, it is likely that SWAT teams from more than a single agency would be deployed. These types of conferences promote networking, and sharing technical expertise and ideas for equipment and tactics.

“When these conferences began they were a way to bring together SWAT teams from surrounding jurisdictions to advance their training and promote coordinated operations,” Capt. Hoover says. “That’s still a major goal.”

Teams will compete for top ranking in the individual events as well as first place overall. In 2013, Athens Clarke County Police Department SWAT team placed first overall. Teams registered for this year’s event include those from:

- Chesterfield County Police Department
- Farmville Detention Center
- Roanoke Police Department
- Staunton Police Department
- Manassas City Police Department
- Diplomatic Security Training Center
- National Geospatial – Intelligence Agency
- West Point Cadets, West Point NY

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NOTE to media representatives:

If you plan to attend the event, please contact CeCe Dodd (cece.dodd@harrisonburgva.gov, 540-435-3426). 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 CeCe know in advance.