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HPD S.W.A.T. Trains and Competes at International Conference

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) S.W.A.T. team returned home from Florida last week after competing in the 39th Annual Florida S.W.A.T. Association (FSA) Round-Up International.

The S.W.A.T. Round-Up is an opportunity for tactical operators from across the globe to come together as one to compete and learn from each other. The week included a day of training, featuring around a dozen classes hosted by FSA that covered various skills, tactics, and topics related to S.W.A.T. This was followed by four days of competition focused on team work, physical fitness, decision making, and shooting accuracy.

“The training is cutting edge, and the competition gives us an opportunity to go up against some of the best S.W.A.T. teams in the world and see how we stack up,” said HPD’s Lieutenant Rod Pollard. “This training is invaluable to our team; each year we learn how to become stronger physically, mentally and operationally,” Pollard added. The competitive events are geared for simulation of real-life scenarios and are intended to challenge the team as a unit.

This year’s competition had 55 teams competing in the week-long event; 10 of those teams were international and most others were from larger metropolitan cities. HPD finished 20th out of the 55 teams competing, which is their best recorded finish in the competition since 2015 when they attended their first Round-Up.

HPD Chief Eric English reiterated the accomplishments by the team this past week: “Our department trains hard, and our S.W.A.T. members continue to go that extra mile to ensure



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they are at the top of their game. I am proud of their result, and it's through this example of teamwork that we can better serve our community."

Pollard went on to say that attending this conference would not have been possible without the generous support from AMVETS, Steven Toyota and James McHone Jewelry. "It's great to have the community support and we appreciate those who recognize the value in this training and are willing to help make the trip possible."

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