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HPD to Host 20th SWAT Competition on Friday
Event to attract 16 teams to Harrisonburg, including CIA Police Emergency Response Team

HARRISONBURG, Va. – A statewide competition that highlights the intense training and skills of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) members will soon return to Harrisonburg for the first time since 2019.

The Harrisonburg Police Department will host the 20th annual SWAT Competition on Friday, Oct. 14. The event will include 16 teams from across Virginia, including many from the Shenandoah Valley region, with opening ceremonies beginning at 8 a.m. at the Harper-Presgraves Regional Training Center off Greendale Road.

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

"SWAT teams typically are called on to deal with exceedingly dangerous situations," Lieutenant Chris Monahan, Commander of the Harrisonburg SWAT team, said. "SWAT competitions give law enforcement an opportunity to test their physical, technical, communications, and decision-making skills in high stress, realistic situations. It's also a great opportunity to not only learn, but also compete against agencies from around the area."

SWAT officers will take part in a series of events on Friday, being rated on a variety of events that include:

• Sniper Event
• Black Rifle Event
• Downed Operator Rescue
• Steel Reign
• Obstacle Course
• Mystery Event
• Pistol Shoot-off

Teams will compete for top ranking in the individual events as well as first, second and third overall. Teams registered for this year's event include those from:

• Chesterfield County Police Department
• Manassas City Police Department
• Prince William County Police
• Augusta County Sheriff's Office

- Richmond Police Department
- Stafford SWAT
- Albemarle County Police Department
- Hanover County Sheriff's Office
- Fauquier County Sheriff's Office
- Radford City Police Department
- CIA Police Emergency Response Team
- Arlington County Police Department

The event is funded in part by local donations and team registration fees, with support from the Harrisonburg Police Foundation. The continued relationship between HPD and local business including F&M Bank, Mongers Lumber and NOBLE LLC (formally TSSI) who has been a long-standing contributor to the competitions for many years.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 51,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

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