



City of
OAKLAND
California

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OPD EXCELS IN SWAT COMPETITION

The Oakland Police Department placed 2nd among SWAT teams in the recently completed Urban Shield 2011 Training Exercise.

In its 5th year, Urban Shield is the nation's premiere tactical training exercise competition that tests the capabilities of first responders. The event is hosted by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and has obtained international recognition with representatives coming as far away as Israel and Jordan.

The 48 hour event consisted of 30 SWAT teams that competed in sustained exercises that involved 26 realistic training scenarios based on real world threats that were spread across the Bay Area. The scenarios included hostage rescue, maritime/train interdiction, weapons of mass destruction, infrastructure sabotage, and a SWAT fitness assessment. Teams were required to successfully respond to each of the staged scenarios with proper tactics using specialized weapons and equipment.

The Oakland Police team was made up of eight SWAT team members who were led by Sergeants Roland Holmgren and Chris Sansone. Other members of the Urban Shield team were Officers John Perrodin, Brian Alaura, Eriberto Perez-Angeles, Alan Leal, Thomas Sotto, and Casey Johnson.

Oakland Police Chief Howard Jordan, who attended the closing ceremony, stated "I am extremely proud of the Oakland Police Department's Tactical Team. They consistently rank among the best performing Tactical Teams in the region. This award indicates the dedication to duty demonstrated by our Tactical Team and validates the many hours of training our Tactical Team completes every year. Our team takes to heart the Urban Shields adage of *Bound By Duty, Committed With Honor.*"

The Oakland Police Department's Tactical Team is made up of 60 people, divided into five elements which are Command, Entry, Sniper, TNT (negotiation) and Tactical Dispatchers. The SWAT Team is called upon when specialized tactics and/or equipment are required to handle a critical incident within the City or Region.

OPD has place 1st or 2nd two times in the last three years of competition.

For further information on the Oakland Police Department's Tactical Team, contact Lt. Michael Poirier at mpoirier@oaklandnet.com

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