



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contacts:

Officer Johnna Watson
Oakland Police Department
510-238-7230
OPDMedia@oaklandnet.com

News from: **Oakland Police Department**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2012

Oakland Police Department Excels In SWAT Competition

Oakland, CA—This year the Oakland Police Department placed third among SWAT teams in the recently completed Urban Shield 2012 Training Exercise. We would like to extend our congratulations to first place Alameda County Sheriff's Office and to second place Sacramento Police Department for a job well done.

In its 6th year, Urban Shield is the nation's premier 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 such as the United States Marine Corps (USMC) and teams as far away as Brazil and Chicago.

The Oakland Police Department's SWAT Team is called upon when specialized tactics and/or equipment are required to handle critical incidents within the City or Region. Training, tactics, strategy and equipment help to prevent and reduce injury to officers and offenders when dealing with a critical incident. This competition is just one way for us measure our success and validate how we respond to critical incidents.

The 48 hour event consisted of SWAT teams competing in sustained exercises that involved 32 realistic training scenarios based on real world threats spread across the Bay Area.

The scenarios included:

- hostage rescue
- maritime/train interdiction
- weapons of mass destruction, infrastructure sabotage
- SWAT fitness assessment

Teams were required to successfully respond to each of the staged scenarios with proper tactics using specialized weapons and equipment.

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."

OPD has placed first or second in the last three years of competition.

The Oakland Police Department's Tactical Team is made up of 60 people, divided into five elements: Command, Entry, Sniper, TNT (negotiation) and Tactical Operations Support Team (T.O.S.T) and Electronic Surveillance Unit (ESU).

For further information on the Oakland Police Department's Tactical Team, contact Lt. Blair Alexander at balexander@oaklandnet.com

###



OPD SWAT Team- shown in suits that protect from Toxins