

NEW BEDFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Special Reaction Team to participate in New England-wide SWAT Challenge

The New Bedford Police Department is proud to announce the participation of its **SRT** (*Special Reaction Team*) in a New England-wide **SWAT** (*Special Weapons and Tactics*) Challenge. The best SWAT Teams from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey as well as the United States Armed Forces were invited to participate in this challenge to determine the “best of the best” over a two-day competition on Wednesday, August 26th, and Thursday, August 27th in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Teams will be judged on their marksmanship, tactics and physical fitness as well as their proficiency with the specialized tools of their trade, particularly: semi-automatic pistols, shotguns, assault rifles, sniper rifles, machine guns and special entry devices like percussion, strobe and chemical munitions grenades. Teams will also be scored on “officer down” and hostage rescue drills and will be required to complete a grueling 6.2 mile run in full gear consisting of (24) individual fitness challenge stations that all team members must complete in order to be scored.

New Bedford Police Special Reaction Team members will be in **full gear** and will be performing various “**live-fire**” practice drills to prepare for the competition **which members of the media will be able to film** at the New Bedford Police Firearms Range located at 100 Woodcock Road in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. The team will be training from 9:30AM until 1:00PM however the media is asked to arrive as close to 9:30AM as possible so that the team can perform whichever drills you prefer to see, answer questions, and then proceed with their preparation for the competition. **Any members of the media that would like to attend but cannot make the 9:30AM request are asked to please contact Lieutenant Jeffrey Silva to schedule a time to arrive.**

SWAT teams perform extremely dangerous and highly technical functions which are usually only available for public viewing in extreme emergencies, are finished rapidly and generally do not permit the public an opportunity to see, hear, understand and ask questions about what these specially trained officers do and why they do it. Please consider taking advantage of this rare opportunity to bring this excited facet of law enforcement to your viewing communities.