



<b>SPECIALIZED RESPONSE TEAM &amp; CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM PROCEDURES</b>		
✓ <b>new:</b> <b>rescinds:</b> <b>amends:</b>		<b>cross-reference:</b>  <b>accreditation standards:</b> NYSLEAP Standard(s): 33.3, 41.3 & 43.6
<b>effective date:</b> September, 2021	<b>amend date:</b>	

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Order is to establish and describe the management and operational direction of the Ithaca/Tompkins County Specialized Response Team and Crisis Negotiations Team and to provide guidelines for their use.

**II. POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Tompkins County Sheriff's Office to deploy the resources of the SRT and CNT teams objectively and responsibly. The purpose of their deployment is to increase the likelihood of safely resolving critical incidents and/or special assignments that would otherwise exceed the capabilities of traditional law enforcement first responders and/or investigative units. The primary goal in every operation is the preservation of life through the strategic use of all available time, tactics, and resources, while minimizing the disruption to the community, in a manner that reduces the chances of violence, injury, or death to community members, officers, and suspects.

**III. DEFINITION**

*Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT):* The Crisis Negotiation Team provides skilled verbal communicators who are utilized in an effort to de-escalate and effect safe surrender in critical situations where individuals have taken hostages, barricaded themselves, or have suicidal ideations. The team consists of law enforcement officers and mental health advisors. CNT complements the SRT team during high risk operations and is also used as a resource during other critical situations. CNT employs crisis intervention tactics, including de-escalation efforts, to peacefully resolve dangerous events.

*Specialized Response Team (SRT):* A Specialized Response Team is a designated group of law enforcement officers who are selected, trained, and equipped to work as a coordinated team to resolve critical incidents that are so hazardous, complex, or unusual that it may exceed the capabilities of first responders and/or investigative units. The primary characteristic of such team that distinguishes it from other units is the focus of effort. The

SRT team is focused on incident resolution, as opposed to other functions, such as investigation.

#### IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Members of the SRT and CNT teams have other primary assignments within the Sheriff's Office, with SRT/CNT duties being a secondary assignment.
- B. The SRT and CNT teams shall operate pursuant to the established joint mutual aid assistance and inter-municipal agreement, as well as established team standard operating procedures.

#### Attachments:

- A. *Joint Specialized Response Team Mutual Aid Assistance and Inter-municipal Agreement*
- B. *SRT Standard Operating Procedures*
- C. *CNT Team Policy*

By Order Of



Derek Osborne  
*Sheriff*