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*"A Nationally Accredited Agency"*

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## PRESS RELEASE

### *Cranston Police Department Special Reaction Team awarded Re-certification*

#### For Immediate Release

May 19, 2015

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The Rhode Island Police Officers' Commission on Standards and Training (POST) has awarded the Cranston Police re-certification for its Special Reaction Team. The Commission notified Colonel Winquist of the re-certification award, after an assessment team, consisting of Captain Thomas Hannon (Warwick Police Department), Lieutenant Barry Ramer (East Providence Police Department), and Sergeant Ryan Duffy (Newport Police Department) selected by the Rhode Island Tactical Officers Association (RITOA), reviewed all of Cranston Police Department's Special Reaction Team training documents and determined that the Cranston team met all required tactical standards as established by POST. The certification will expire on May 7, 2018.

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The Cranston Police Special Reaction Team is a model for many local, state and federal teams and its 22 members are highly trained in the art of specialized tactics aimed at diffusing a potentially critical situation before it turns tragic. The Team's primary mission is to diffuse highly-volatile situations without the loss of life or injury to police, suspects or civilians involved.

The team is presently under the command of Captain Sean Carmody, a nineteen year veteran of the Cranston Police Department; eighteen of them spent as a member of the Special Reaction Team. Captain Carmody is assisted by Team Leader Sergeant Justin Dutra. Additionally, the team is supplemented by Lieutenant Mark Freeborn and the Crisis Negotiation team.

Colonel Winqvist stated, "Having such a well-trained and dedicated group of officers that can be deployed in critical situations that require specialized training, equipment and tactics ensures the safety of our citizens. The re-certification process was extensive and included an intensive review of the Special Reaction Team's training and policies. I commend Captain Carmody and Sergeant Dutra for their leadership in achieving re-accreditation, as well as other officers who presently serve on the Special Reaction Team. They assume this role, which requires many hours of training, inherent risks and 24 hour availability in addition to their primary duties within the police department."