



**SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH**

**For Immediate Release- Media**  
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## **Media Invitation to “Best in the West” SWAT Invitational Competition**

**WHAT:** The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office is hosting the 25th Best in the West S.W.A.T. Invitational Competition. This two-day event attracts top S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams from across the West Coast. This year, over 25 S.W.A.T Teams will negotiate six different courses, testing each team's physical fitness, tactics, weapons proficiency, and teamwork. The total points earned in each event are combined to determine which S.W.A.T team is the Best in the West.

**Best in the West will be held this Thursday & Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Sheriff's Office Range located at 9600 Malech Road in San Jose. The event is closed to the public due to safety and liability concerns, but local and national news media is invited to cover the competition.

While the nationally recognized competition is fierce, Best in the West breeds a special camaraderie among the elite special teams and serves as a workshop to share techniques on tactics and improve team skills.

Sheriff Laurie Smith holds the Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (S.E.R.T.) with great pride, not only for their own standard of excellence on S.W.A.T. operations and tactics, but also for their dedication and professionalism in managing one of a very few S.W.A.T Invitational Competitions in the West Coast.

The Gifford Foundation is the primary sponsor of this event. Other sponsors include LC Action Police Supply and Take Aim Targets. The combined contributions of all our sponsors/vendors make the Best in the West S.W.A.T Competition possible.

**The opening ceremony will commence at 7:30 a.m. Thursday May 10th.**

**PLEASE RSVP VIA EMAIL: [Richard.Glennon@shf.sccgov.org](mailto:Richard.Glennon@shf.sccgov.org)**