



Marin County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Administration and Support Services
Professional Standards Unit

Public Information Officer:
Sergeant Debra D. Barry
415.499.7836

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2009

Urban Shield Training Drill for MCSO Special Response Team

San Francisco Bay Area, CA – Over this past weekend, eight deputies from the Marin County Sheriff's Office participated in a Homeland Security drill at various locations throughout the Bay Area. Approximately 3,000 people from 27 tactical teams took part in the grueling training exercise. Event participants included teams from as far away as Boston and France.

Funded by grants from the Department of Homeland Security, the goal of this 50 hour event was to assist law enforcement agencies and tactical teams in planning for, preparing for and training for real life disasters and major emergencies by utilizing a series of twenty-five simulated scenarios. Specific locations that depicted potential problem areas in the San Francisco Bay Area as well as scenarios that replicated recent tragedies that have affected the nation were chosen for this event.

The drills were designed to sharpen skills and techniques in handling a variety of tactical scenarios, including mock terrorist attacks. This event was designed to test law enforcement officers' abilities under pressure and under fatiguing conditions. There were medical checkpoints within the training exercises and the participants were medically screened three times during the event to monitor the status of their health.

The Marin County Sheriff's Office maintains a Special Response Team consisting of sixteen deputies who are on-call full-time in addition to their normal duties throughout the organization. The MCSO team was the only tactical team from Marin to participate in this exercise. MCSO Special Response Team Leader and event participant Sergeant Steven delaO stated, "We were honored to have been invited to participate in this event. The knowledge, experience and training that we received from this weekend's drill is immeasurably valuable and may someday save lives."