

Hamilton police SWAT takes top honors

Squad chosen as the top national team in a competition held in Orlando, Fla.

Staff Report

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HAMILTON — The Hamilton SWAT team captured top honors at the SWAT Round-Up International Competition.

The team, comprising eight Hamilton special weapons and tactics team officers, was chosen as the top national team out of the 60-team competition, which took place Nov. 30 through Dec. 5 in Orlando, Fla.

SWAT teams from eight states and nine foreign countries competed in five days of events that challenged their tactical skills, physical fitness and teamwork. The events included hostage rescue, officer rescue, tower scramble and the obstacle course, said Hamilton SWAT Commander Scott Scrimizzi.

The competition is a simulation of real-life scenarios that enable SWAT officers to evaluate their performance in a stressful environment, Scrimizzi said.

Team members devoted numerous hours of training on their own time to prepare for the competition and bringing home a coveted trophy is a testament to their dedication, Scrimizzi said.

"Our SWAT team is constantly challenging one another to be the best of the best," Scrimizzi said. "By participating in these international competitions we can see firsthand how we stack up against the world's best. This competition validated that we are on the right track for success."

Team members consisted of Sgt. Wade McQueen, Detective Greg Baker, officers Mel Gray, Paul Webb and Matt Fishwick of the Hamilton Police Department.

Also competing were officers Aaron and Alex Baker of the Miami University Police Department and Fairfield police Sgt. Steve Maynard.
