

PRESS RELEASE

In 2015, shortly after the Matt and Sweat escape from Clinton Correctional Facility, Sheriff Favro brought forward the creation of a locally originated group of specially trained officers to respond to local emergencies. The SRT (Special Response Team) would train to effect high risk search and arrest warrants, as well as train in woodland tactics in tracking and be called upon to assist with search and rescue efforts. The SRT would train to be a supplemental element to a mobilization of any local, state or federal agency, as needed. SRT would train to handle any corrections emergency where special tactics and equipment beyond those that are possessed by our correctional professionals would be required. In addition, the SRT would train and equip to operate in all weather and terrain conditions that would be found in Northern NY, as well as training in the maritime environment, including training conducted with the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. The majority of funding required to meet these goals has been obtained primarily from grant funding, specifically from the State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (SLETPP).

Since 2015, the Clinton County Sheriff's SRT has obtained national certification as a SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) team with advanced training in hostage rescue and high risk warrant execution. The team continues to move forward to the recommended NYS DCJS (New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services) certifications as well as expanding its base of training and working relationships with other agencies and teams. In 2017, the team signed a Multi-Jurisdictional Agreement whereby uniting the Clinton County Sheriff's SRT with members of the Essex and Franklin County Sheriff's Office. This move has been made with the idea of the NYS Governor's Office's shared services initiative in mind. This ultimately has become what is now referred to as the "Tri-County SRT".

The Tri-County SRT has been able to assist NYS Department of Environmental Conservation with a team of self-sufficient members who could work in inclement weather to assist the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's search capabilities. The SRT has assisted with search warrants for the HSI (Homeland Security Investigations), DEA and Clinton County Sheriff's Office. The team also has been able to assist the NYSP with a mission where by providing man power to support their team's efforts with a barricaded, armed male with mental health issues. The SRT has conducted several protection details for various persons as well as large scale public events. Members of the Sheriff's SRT have also used their trainings to teach members of the NYS Probation, NYS Parole, Clinton County District Attorney's Office, Essex County Sheriff's Office Deputies and Correction Officers, with an emphasis on school and jail facilities. Members of the team have brought forward active shooter response and workplace safety training to The Press Republican, Plattsburgh International Airport employees, TSA at Plattsburgh, Clinton Community College faculty, Newcomb Central School faculty, Town of Plattsburgh employees, Northeastern Clinton Central School Bus operators, NYS DOT in Plattsburgh, Clinton County Traveling Nurses and also assisted in teaching the majority of the county employee population in Clinton County.

"This collaboration will aide all of the residents of the North Country. It helps answer the questions of what kind of response can we provide to major situations and the training that is available now is second to none. It is one of the final pieces of the master plan for the security of our government buildings and the safety of our schools." Sheriff Mulverhill, Franklin County