Gainesville PD
Special Weapons and Tactics Team

SWAT
The primary objective of the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) is to provide the Gainesville Police Department the ability to respond with specially trained personnel to resolve high risk situations with a minimum of personal injury to all persons involved.
GPD SWAT Responsibilities

- High Risk Search Warrants
- High Risk Arrest Warrants
- Barricaded Subjects
- Hostage Situations
- Dignitary Protection
- Special Assignments (take-down team, robbery stake-outs, vehicle take-downs, bus take-downs, etc).
GPD SWAT
Supervision

Team Commander
● Sgt. Joe Senn

Team Leaders
● Sgt. Steve Hayes
● Sgt. David Blizzard
● Sgt. Courtnay Roberts
GPD SWAT
Team Member Positions

- Entry Teams
- Perimeter Teams
- Precision Long Rifle/Observer Teams
- Grenadier/Less-Lethal Teams
GPD SWAT Equipment

- SWAT van
- Entry tools
- Ballistic Tactical Entry Vests (Level IIIA)
- Chemical munitions (shotgun and 40mm)
- Precision Long Rifles
- MP5 submachine guns
- M4/AR 15 .223 Rifles
- Less-lethal munitions (bean bag & sponge rounds)
GPD SWAT Selection

- **Background**
  - 2 years GPD / 1 year GPD & 1 year other LEO
  - Supervisory recommendation
  - Internal Affairs history review
GPD SWAT Selection

- SWAT Tryout
  - 90% on GPD firearms qualification
  - SWAT physical qualification:
    1 ½ mile run, bench press, push-ups, sit-ups
- Obstacle Course
- Rappelling
- Judgmental Shooting Scenario
- Oral board interview
- Chemical Agent exposure
How and When is SWAT activated or used?

- Critical Incidents (Barricades, Hostage situation, etc)
- Search Warrant Service (Narcotics, CID, etc)
- Special requests (Dignitary protection, etc)

The Commander is notified of the request and determines if SWAT will be utilized.

With Search Warrant requests, a matrix is used as a guide to assist in determining if the risk justifies the use of SWAT.
SWAT Matrix

FACTORS to be considered:

- Search warrant for drugs
- Search warrant for evidence of crime against person
- Search warrant for items that could be destroyed
- Subject has history of arrest/involvement in drugs
- Violent criminal history involving only misdemeanor offense(s)
- Violent criminal history involving felony offense(s)
- History of assault or resisting offense(s) against law enforcement
- Subject has used firearms during crimes
- Subject known to carry firearms (Poss of sawed of shotgun on previous DTF Warrant)
- Subject has made statements reference resisting arrest/search
- Subject(s) of the warrant has not been identified
- Firearms readily accessible to suspects
- Service of warrant could require forced entry
- Location is fortified, requires specialty breaching, or has guard dogs
- Containment (break-out team) required
- Semi-permissive environment
- Approach compromise likely
- Young children or other potential bystanders presence expected

NOTE: The SWAT Commander may weigh factors heavier based on known information. Example: If it is believed that an automatic weapon may be accessible to the subject.
GPD SWAT
Role of Incident Commander and SWAT Commander

- Incident Commander
  - Isolate and Contain scene (inner & outer perimeter)
  - Activate Special Weapons and Tactics Team and Negotiation Response Team
  - Overall command of incident (including possible tactical options)
GPD SWAT
Role of Incident Commander and SWAT Commander

- **SWAT Commander**
  - Responsible for all SWAT related decisions
  - Advise Incident Commander on tactical options
  - Provide appropriate tactical response, in consultation with Incident Commander
  - In exigent circumstances, SWAT Commander can make decisions for crisis entry or other resolution
Deployment of SWAT (or NRT) may be requested by a unit commander, shift commander, or higher authority. The SWAT or NRT Commander shall assess the need for a SWAT or NRT call-out (GPD Manual).

Response time of SWAT can vary from 45 minutes to 2 hours, depending on a variety of factors.
GPD SWAT Activation

- Equipped with either H&K MP5 submachine guns, M4/AR 15 .223 rifles, .308 precision long rifles, and 40mm chemical munition launchers, all team weapons are carried by SWAT members in their vehicles. When activated, SWAT members gather at a staging area in the field, rather than at GPD, which decreases response time.
GPD SWAT Resolution Options

- Surrender
- Precision Long Rifle
- Entry / Takedown / Hostage Rescue
- Less Lethal-if practical
GPD SWAT
Contact Information

- Sgt. Joe Senn-Team Commander
  393-7510 Office (Executive Staff Asst. Sharon Wooding)
  sennbj@cityofgainesville.org
GPD SWAT

- Questions?