

2008 Year End Report - Red River Valley SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team



Mission: *The purpose of the SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team is to provide a highly trained unit of police personnel to respond to tactical and high-risk incidents.*

Red River Valley SWAT is a multijurisdictional team of professionals from law enforcement agencies in Cass (ND) and Clay (MN) Counties. These personnel are specifically from; Cass County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office, West Fargo Police Department, Moorhead Police Department, NDSU Police Department and the Fargo Police Department. Red River Valley SWAT primarily responds to incidents in Cass and Clay counties, but is accessible to other jurisdictions through mutual aid when circumstances warrant. Red River Valley SWAT is comprised of four Units:

Tactical Operations Unit

The Tactical Unit, generally referred to as the "SWAT Team" is designed to provide tactical support to other law enforcement agencies, assist with executing high risk search warrants, high risk arrest warrants of dangerous subjects, barricaded suspects, building or rural searches for suspects or missing persons, and hostage situations or any incident in which there is an elevated danger to the public. *The Moorhead Police Department currently has six members assigned to the Tactical Unit, one Lieutenant and five Officers.* The Lieutenant assigned functions within Red River Valley SWAT in the capacity of an Assistant Team Commander.



SWAT Negotiations Unit

The Red River Valley SWAT Negotiations Unit is comprised of nine negotiators, eight officers and one sergeant who functions as the Unit Leader. *The Moorhead Police Department currently has two Sergeants assigned to the Negotiations Unit, one of whom acts as the Team Leader.*

Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS)

Medical support is provided by a team of paramedics assigned to Red River Valley SWAT. Six paramedics, three from MeritCare Hospital Life Flight and three from F-M Ambulance, work under the direction of an emergency physician from MeritCare and provide Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS).

Bomb Unit

The Bomb Unit is comprised of 8 members; the *Moorhead Police Department currently has one member assigned.*



Red River Valley SWAT Tactical Unit had the following activity for 2008:

<i>High Risk Search Warrants:</i>	7
<i>Moorhead (4), West Fargo (1), Fargo (2)</i>	
<i>Barricaded Subjects:</i>	4
<i>Negotiator Team Only:</i>	0
<i>Armed Subject at Large:</i>	1
<i>Total Call Outs:</i>	12



Red River Valley SWAT Bomb Unit had the following activity for 2008:

<i>Assists with Tactical Unit:</i>	3
<i>Disposals:</i>	8
<i>IED Call:</i>	1
<i>Total Call Outs:</i>	12

Notable Call Outs:

- **LaVerne North Dakota:** Barricaded subject had fired on a SWAT Unit from Jamestown/Valley City. During the course of this incident, a Tactical Unit Member was fired upon, and struck in the head with a round from a 12 gauge shotgun. A ballistic helmet spared the Tactical Unit Member of any injury.
- **Degidio Incident-Moorhead:** The RRVS was activated during the search for Vincent Degidio in south Moorhead, after Degidio fired upon Officers and fled into a residential area. Degidio was taken into custody prior to SWAT's arrival on the scene, after being shot by a Patrol Officer.
- **Richland County North Dakota:** RRVS was activated to assist with a barricaded subject who fired rounds at a civilian. The subject subsequently was taken into custody when he attempted to leave in his vehicle.
- **Roberts Street – Fargo:** RRVS was activated for subjects reportedly armed and barricaded in an apartment building. Two people were successfully negotiated out of the apartment; a third was taken into custody following an entry by the Tactical Unit. A Sig Sauer .223 scoped assault rifle was recovered as well.

2008 Training:

In 2008 Red River Valley SWAT Tactical Unit trained together as a team a total of 180 hours, the Negotiator Unit 40 hours, and the Bomb Unit 200 hours for a total of approximately 420 hours beyond their regularly scheduled shifts to maintain the highest degree of skills possible.

Other 2008 events:

Assistant Team Commander Shannon Monroe (Deputy Chief) ended his tour of duty with Red River Valley SWAT after seven years of service. He is replaced by Lt. Joel Scharf as Assistant Team Commander.