



# SHERIFF

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

### Media Release

## Washington County Negotiation Team Wins Regional Competition for Fourth Consecutive Year

May 4, 2018 – The Washington County Crisis Negotiation Unit was awarded first place at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Hostage Negotiation Team Competition in Reno, Nevada. This is the fourth consecutive year the team has taken first place at this event.

On May 3, 2018, members of the inter-agency Washington County Crisis Negotiation Unit participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Hostage Negotiation Team Competition in Reno, Nevada, organized by the Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association. Ten negotiation teams from multiple states competed in a challenging full-day scenario in which every aspect of crisis negotiation was utilized and tested.



Upon completion of the competition, the Washington County Crisis Negotiation Unit was awarded first place, tying with the Washoe County Sheriff's Office. This is the fourth consecutive year the team has taken first place at this highly challenging competition. The Crisis Negotiation Unit tied for first place in both the 2015 and 2016 competitions, and won outright in 2017.

Formed in 1981, the [Washington County Crisis Negotiation Unit](#) (CNU) is an inter-agency team whose primary goal is to create peaceful resolutions to often extremely volatile situations. The unit's cornerstones are empathy, knowledge, and compassion. The team is comprised of members from the Sheriff's Office, Beaverton Police, Hillsboro Police, Tigard Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), mental health consultants, and a certified psychologist.



The [Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association](#) (WSHNA) was founded in 1986 with the mission of developing negotiation teams to the highest degree of proficiency in the performance of their professional duties. The association is represented by enforcement and corrections crisis negotiators from eight states and British Columbia.

This year's conference and competition was hosted by the Reno Police Department and Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

Local Reno media coverage of the event: [www.kolotv.com/content/news/Hostage-negotiators-sharpen-skills-in-competition-481699901.html](http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/Hostage-negotiators-sharpen-skills-in-competition-481699901.html)

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**Sheriff Pat Garrett**