



COBURG OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

91136 N. Willamette Street Coburg, OR 97408 (541) 682-7853 Fax (541) 485-9712

Larry Larson, Chief of Police

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (CNT) TRAINING BRIEF

The Lane County Sheriff's Office operates a task force comprised of members of local law enforcement officials from various agencies throughout Lane County. Approximately 15 members of this task force are trained in hostage and/or crisis negotiations. This team is known as the Crisis Negotiations Team or "CNT." Each month, a prepared training is conducted in a "real world" scenario. These scenarios have been scripted by team leaders and are kept a secret from team members to enhance the realism of each training. These scenarios are conducted at real businesses or residences and utilize real role players to ensure the training is as realistic as possible. Currently, the Lane County CNT Team has members assigned to it from the Junction City Police Department, Springfield Police Department, Coburg Police Department and the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

In 2022, a grant was successfully awarded to the Lane County CNT Team which allowed the purchase of a fully equipped 2022 Ram 5500. This vehicle is known as the negotiations operations center or "NOC." This vehicle is equipped with a 40' tall camera system, audio enhancement system and is able to operate on an stand-alone generator for days at a time. Many state of the art high-tech pieces of equipment are located within the NOC which allows negotiators and team members the ability to find information about the suspects, victims and/or witnesses. Additionally, the NOC serves as an operating post for Sheriff's Office Special Response Team (SRT) to operate drones and tactical robots from.

On March 27, 2024, the Lane County CNT Team conducted a training at the Coburg Distillery, located at 32832 E. Pearl Street in Coburg. With the help of local businessman, Jessie Williamson, the training was a huge success and the scenario was completed with a successful and peaceful resolution. During these trainings, role players are provided with a written scenario and are often placed inside of an actual business.

The synopsis of the training which occurred in Coburg on 3/27/2024 is as follows:

In this scenario, a recently discharged employee had come back to his former place of employment and took his former supervisor hostage. Upon the arrival of the Lane County CNT Team, a command post was set up in the parking lot of Country Java and negotiations began via cell phone, utilizing the "NOC." However, the cell phone utilized by the suspect in the scenario had lost power, resulting in the loss communications with the suspect. A "throw phone," which is a two way means of communication, was activated and deployed into the building where the CNT Team was able to reestablish communications with the suspect. After approximately 2 ½ hours, a successful resolution was made with the suspect and the hostages were released.

Without the support of local citizens, local governments and the generosity of local businessmen and women, such as Jessie Williamson, these trainings would lack effectiveness. Real world calls for service would be affected greatly due to the ineffectiveness of these trainings.