

The Special Reaction Team

The Special Reaction Team, (S.R.T.), was originally called the Special Weapons And Training, (S.W.A.T.) team. The name was changed in 1988.

The SWAT Team was established by Sergeant Ronald Guilmette in September of 1979. Membership was voluntary and open to all officers in the department. Today, membership is still voluntary, but perspective members must pass rigorous training, and sometimes there are more applicants than openings on the team.

The team has been used over the years at armed standoffs, narcotics raids, and special protection details.

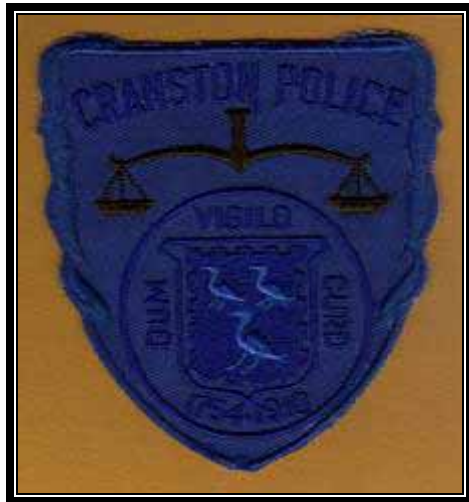
In 1989, President George H. Bush visited the home of then Governor DePrite at the governor's home on Wilbur Avenue. At one point during the meeting, a man ran past a security checkpoint and tried to approach the house from behind through some woods. He was quickly apprehended by members of the SWAT Team and turned over to the Secret Service.

The team originally wore green fatigues, but by the mid 1980's, they adopted a black commando style uniform.

Regardless of a members rank, no rank insignia are worn on the uniforms because the team acts as a unit and each member is assigned a task that he is best suited for. Jobs include snipers, spotters, hostage negotiators, and entry team.



SWAT training, circa 1983



Prototype SWAT patch, circa 1980



First van used by the SWAT Team, 1980 to 1988
A 1975 Ford Econoline



Cranston S.R.T. team, Knightsville Manor, 1988

Left to Right back row standing- James Abbott, Anthony Meola, Frank Gallo,
Robert Quirk, John Lamantia, Vincent Maccarone, Robert Barber, Steve McGrath,
Michael Gunson.

Middle row kneeling – Tom Mooney, Gordon Smith, Ronald Martin, Paul Saccoccia,
Steve Garbriele, Ray Angell.

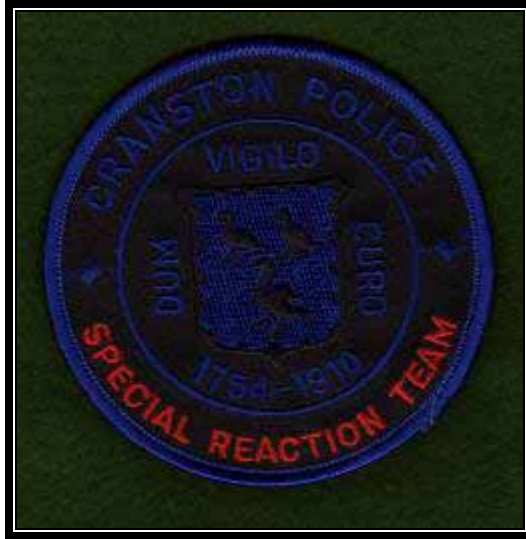
Front row sitting – Michael Chalek, Peter Smith



Second truck used by the team, a retired fire/rescue truck
Used from 1988 to 1994



Third truck used by the SRT Team, a retired Providence Journal delivery truck.
Donated to the police department in June of 1993



SRT patch, first issued 1988

Two variations of this patch were produced. One had an olive green background and the other a white background. Neither of those variations were worn.