



**Warren C. Evans**  
**Sheriff**

# News Release

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## Sheriff's Office simulates hostage scenario aboard DDOT bus to train for possibilities

### ◆ *Special Response Team practices tactical entry to rescue passengers*

As part of their efforts to keep passengers aboard Detroit Department of Transportation buses safe at all times, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and DDOT officials today conducted a training scenario with the Sheriff's Special Response Team (SRT) that simulated a hostage situation on a DDOT bus.

The purpose of the training was to practice a tactical approach and dynamic entry of a city bus to successfully retrieve hostages who were being held captive by two armed gunmen, said Wayne County Sheriff Warren C. Evans.

"The Detroit Department of Transportation is a major component of our region's public transit system and it is incumbent upon us to prepare for a variety of scenarios, just as police agencies do in other major cities," Evans said. "Protecting the passengers and drivers aboard DDOT coaches is something we take very seriously."

According to the scenario, two armed men had just attempted to rob a gas station at I-75 and Warren in Detroit then fled on foot, boarding a DDOT bus just as it was pulling way from the stop in front of the gas station. Deputies witnessed the men fleeing, radioed for backup and successfully surrounded the coach.

As the scenario unfolded, officers conducted hostage negotiations and, once the situation reached a critical stage and the loss of innocent lives appeared likely, made their dynamic entry onto the coach. During the mock situation, SRT officers deployed distraction devices called "flash bangs" to disorient the hostage takers and use simulated ammunition, or, "simunitions," to attempt to recreate a real life situation.

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DDOT Director Norman White said hopes conducting this scenario will further raise the public's confidence in the overall safety of the DDOT system.

"Sheriff's Deputies already have a strong uniform presence on our buses and along our routes," White said. "They also provide an excellent response to situations that arise every day. However, we want the public to know that we also are planning for unexpected situations that could arise so that we can ensure everyone's safety."

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