



Brad Hazzard MP

Attorney General

Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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HOSTAGE RESPONSE SQUAD PUTS THE ORDER INTO LAW AND ORDER

An elite team of 70 correctional officers devoted to responding to any major emergency in NSW prisons have proved they are more than ready to maintain order.

Attorney General and Minister for Justice Brad Hazzard and Corrective Services Commissioner Peter Severin last week viewed Corrective Services NSW' specialist Security Operations Group as it successfully resolved a mock hostage scenario at Windsor's John Morony Correctional Complex.

"I was extremely impressed by these officers' tactical and negotiation skills, and their command of Corrective Services NSW' weaponry and K9 teams," Mr Hazzard said.

"Fortunately this sort of hostage scenario has rarely occurred in NSW prison history.

"However it's extremely reassuring to know these men and women are more than prepared to respond to the worst as they uphold the very best security standards for our prisons."

Corrective Services NSW Commissioner Peter Severin said the day's training was business as usual for the Security Operations Group.

Mr Severin said the SOG was also prepared to deal with the potential scenarios of barricaded cells, escapes and riots and helped train other officers throughout the prison system to respond to potential security threats.

"The job of correctional staff is an inherently risky one so we take a multi-faceted approach to maintaining order in prisons," Mr Severin said.

"The SOG also uses K9s to search visitors, inmates and cells to restrict access to potential weapons, while our centres use security screening and strong intelligence gathering to keep across any potential security threat."