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**MEDIA RELEASE  
IOWA STATE PENITENTIARY  
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The Iowa State Penitentiary Hostage Negotiation Team won the State of Iowa competition in July. This qualified the team to compete in the National Competition from January 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> in San Marcos, Texas. The team took First and Second Place in the Corrections Division in this national event.

The eleven member team split to enter two teams in the competition. The team consisting mostly of Correctional Officers also includes two staff members from Records and Activities. The group made the trip to compete against 29 other teams, with some teams as far away as Vancouver Canada. The group began training last April for the State Competition in July of 2014.

At the qualifying state competition there were nine other teams with ISP Hostage Negotiation team came back with a First place win. During the July event there was an eight hour scenario involving a sovereign citizen. Once qualified for nationals, the team worked with a Crisis System Management, a company that specializes in training specialty teams of this nature.

At Nationals, the eight hour time frame was the same but the subject matter was of security threat group members. There were two divisions; Law Enforcement and Corrections. The Portland Oregon police Department won the Law Enforcement division.

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The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is to:  
**Advance Successful Offender Reentry to Protect the Public, Staff and Offenders from Victimization.**

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