



*Second Annual
Attorney General's Award
for Distinguished Service in Policing*

SEPTEMBER 18, 2018







FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



September 18, 2018

President Trump and I are firmly committed to honoring and supporting the work of law enforcement officers and deputies, and I appreciate any opportunity to personally express my gratitude to those who risk their lives daily to protect our communities. Earlier this year, I was pleased to announce this second annual award to honor the outstanding work of rank-and-file officers and deputies who exemplify the principles of policing and to highlight the exceptional work they do to keep us safe each and every day.

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing recognizes individual state, local, and tribal sworn rank-and-file police officers and deputies for outstanding efforts in community policing strategies, criminal investigations, and field operations that have improved our ability to enforce our laws. We understand that this critical work goes unnoticed far too often, but we hope this award will shine a light on the heroic women and men of law enforcement and the vital public service that our nation's officers and deputies provide.

In the more than 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, individual rank-and-file officers and deputies fill invaluable roles in their communities by utilizing well established and effective proactive policing strategies. These policies have made us more productive and have made our neighborhoods safer.





On behalf of the entire Department of Justice and the American people we are privileged to serve, thank you for your exceptional work and your commitment to the principles of innovative policing and the spirit of this award. I am proud to honor those who ensure we have a safer, more secure, and more just nation.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sessions

Attorney General of the United States





ABOUT THE AWARDS

Innovations in Community Policing. Examples in this category include engaging in significant problem-solving activities, the creation of productive community partnerships, or the implementation of new policing programs or initiatives that have a significant impact on public safety problems, building and enhancing trust, or respect for police and community satisfaction or have led to reductions in violent crime. The ideal nominee for this award promotes public safety through a dedication to innovative policing strategies to reduce violent crime such as human trafficking, gun crime, drug trafficking, and gang violence.

Criminal Investigations. Examples in this category include solving a particularly difficult case such as a cold-case homicide investigation, conducting a comprehensive gang or drug investigation that results in the disruption and dismantling of a known gang responsible for significant violence in the community, using creative and collaborative investigation techniques to apprehend a prolific burglary or serial robbery suspect, working in collaboration with the community on an investigation, or developing an effective program or strategy that increases the department's criminal case clearance rates.

Field Operations. Examples in this category include heroic, quick, innovative, or otherwise exceptional police work in partnership with other officers, agencies, or the community to make a significant arrest or solve a noteworthy case or community problem; solving a particularly challenging crime through community partnerships and the use of stellar preliminary investigation techniques; working with





other officers, agencies, or the community to effectively enforce violations of state or federal criminal laws impacting the community including immigration and violent offenses (including drug trafficking and firearm crimes); and working to abate neighborhood blight and reduce crime, engaging at-risk youth to reduce crime and victimization and build trust, or successfully using de-escalation techniques to resolve a potentially violent situation such as a suicide, a person in a mental health crisis or struggling with substance abuse, a hostage situation, or a barricaded suspect.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Policing would not be possible without the active participation of representatives from the following organizations and agencies:

- Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, U.S. Department of Justice
- Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice
- Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Justice
- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- Information Management Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
- Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA)
- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)





- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- Office of the Associate Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of the Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Partner Engagement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of Indiana
- U.S. Department of Justice Libraries
- United States Marshals Service, U.S. Department of Justice





PROGRAM

Welcome

Phil Keith, Director

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Presentation of Colors

Washington Metropolitan Police Department Color Guard

National Anthem

Rhea Walker, Special Assistant

National Institute of Justice

Introduction of Deputy Attorney General

Phil Keith, Director

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Remarks and Introduction of Attorney General

The Honorable Rod Rosenstein, Deputy Attorney General

Attorney General Address

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General

Conferring of Medals

The Honorable Jefferson B. Sessions III, Attorney General

Closing

Phil Keith, Director

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services







INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Sergeant Sean Crotty

Little Egg Harbor Police Department (New Jersey)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



Sergeant Sean Crotty of the Little Egg Harbor Police Department is the school resource officer at the local high school. His main responsibility is the protection of the school community. However, he also takes on the arguably greater role of getting involved with students, shaping the way they view law enforcement, and helping mold them into productive community members. He shares with students the

dangers of illicit drugs, underage drinking, drunk driving, and the inappropriate use of social media. His interactions include memorable demonstrations and activities as well. For example, he has the senior class wear “drunk goggles” and drive golf carts through a course to show the dangers of underage drinking and drunk driving. In addition, he has traveled with the school’s Lead and Seed program to local liquor stores educating business owners on the dangers of selling alcohol to underage persons.

While Sergeant Crotty’s “beat” is the high school, this does not limit him to creating relationships with the younger students in the community. In his years with the department, Sergeant Crotty started a Junior Police Academy for middle school students, enhanced free Police Athletic League (PAL) programs, and added a Junior Police Explorers program.

Sergeant Crotty is also very involved with the agency’s Coffee with a Cop program; he holds Coffee with a Cop events approximately once a month in local businesses throughout his township. He ensures that a wide variety of locations are selected to allow officers to interact with the broadest





possible segments of the community. This program allows the police department to hear directly from community members regarding problems so that they can be addressed efficiently.

Most recently, Sergeant Crotty attended training and received his certificate as a Police Chaplain. As part of these duties, he developed a program to have local churches interact to foster understanding and to create open dialogue with one another to share ideas and concerns. He has also held active shooter seminars along with the New Jersey Department of Justice to educate the religious community on the importance of being prepared for these incidents.

Sergeant Crotty has fostered a large number of relationships throughout his community. These relationships are intertwined and directly related, from facilitating local community interactions with their police department to addressing the fears of local churchgoers and school officials; his youth-related efforts range from enabling children to attend PAL and police events to having those children grow to become Police Explorers, student leaders, and productive citizens. Sergeant Crotty has developed an effective community policing web where he helps foster an entire community network of sharing, collaborating, and helping one another.





INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Detective Michael Rastetter

Canton Police Department (Ohio)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



Detective Michael Rastetter's work with those suffering from opioid addiction has set him apart even among a department full of dedicated officers continuously looking for innovative ways to serve their community. Recently, that community has been hit hard by the opioid crisis—2016 was the worst year in Canton's history, with 49 opioid-related deaths, and the worst year in Stark County's

history, with 102 opioid-related deaths. Canton accounted for 48 percent of all opioid-related overdoses (fatal and nonfatal) in Stark County in 2016.

In June 2017, the Canton Police Department began a collaboration with two local mental health and addiction recovery agencies and put together a team consisting of a nurse, a social worker, and a vice detective. Using report analysis, the team created lists of all individuals who overdosed in the city and survived, then visited each person to offer services. Detective Rastetter was assigned to be the point person of this quick response team, which was called the Stark Outreach Support (SOS) team.

Detective Rastetter's compassion and professionalism help him make real connections with people who are suffering with addiction. He shows great compassion when working with opioid addicts and their families. He partners with other professionals to guide individuals through the detox,





treatment, and rehab process. He meets with neighbors who report drug activity and discusses the need for long-term intervention rather than eviction, and he has been able to stop those complaints from building.

In the year following the introduction of SOS in June 2017, the team attempted 170 outreaches. They engaged 70 overdose survivors and 33 family members. The team has linked 30 individuals with rehabilitation services, provided 19 Naloxone kits, and made 67 referrals to other professionals.

The statistical decline in opioid-related overdoses since the team was put in place has been dramatic: Canton had only 20 opioid-related overdose deaths in 2017, a reduction of nearly 60 percent. In addition, there were 19 percent fewer nonfatal opioid overdoses in Canton in 2017 than in 2016. In 2017, Canton only accounted for 27 percent of all Stark County opioid-related overdose deaths—half the 2016 rate. These reductions came at a time when the state of Ohio had the third-highest rate of fatal overdoses in the country and when the state was experiencing a 35 percent year-on-year increase in drug overdoses according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SOS has been recognized statewide as an example of a successful collaboration between police and community partners and is currently being replicated by the Stark County Sheriff's Office.





INNOVATIONS IN COMMUNITY POLICING

Officer Laurie Reyes

Montgomery County Police Department (Maryland)

Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



In 2005, Officer Laurie Reyes—then an eight-year veteran of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)—noticed that repeated searches for the same critically missing people (individuals with autism, intellectual and developmental disabilities [IDD], and Alzheimer’s disease) demanded a large proportion of departmental resources, both in money and in officers’ time.

With buy-in from executive staff, Officer Reyes piloted the Project Lifesaver program in the MCPD, which gives radio bracelets to frequent nonverbal wanderers. Officers trained by Officer Reyes maintain the bracelets, engage with the participants, and (if necessary) use their equipment to trace the radio frequency and locate the wanderer much more quickly the next time they go missing. Currently, Officer Reyes maintains more than 40 participants in this program in Montgomery County; the success of searches for these individuals has improved, search times have been cut, and lives have been saved.

Officer Reyes has now pivoted to focus on attempts to stop the wandering in the first place. She saw the need for police to partner with and provide for a safe, understanding, and well-informed community for these individuals (especially those with Alzheimer’s disease, who wander the most frequently). By 2010 she had created the MCPD’s Autism, Intellectual





Developmental Disabilities, and Alzheimer's Outreach Program, which is now a nationally recognized model that promotes awareness and safety through education, outreach, follow-up, empowerment, and response. Part of the program is a brochure (with safety tips and MCPD contact information) and safety kit (including a t-shirt reading "If I am alone, call 911"), designed and produced by Officer Reyes. The kits can be custom created for individuals and are given to them at no cost.

Officer Reyes also develops and instructs curricula for police officers and the community, using dynamic scenarios to teach officers safety procedures and tips for dealing with this special needs community and teaching parents and caretakers safety precautions and how to reinforce them. In 2013 she planned and coordinated Montgomery County's first Autism/IDD National Night Out, now an annual event and a national model.

Officer Reyes also works with local and national legislators to be sure the community is beginning to get the recognition and services that it needs. She is now working with researchers to develop a virtual reality-based curriculum to be used in conjunction with law enforcement instruction that will help engage the younger generation in training and will be able to integrate many more interactive scenarios into the curriculum.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Officer Megan Freer

*Middleton Township Police Department (Pennsylvania)
Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)*



In the summer of 2017, Officer Megan Freer responded to the missing person report of a missing 19-year-old man in Middletown Township, about 20 miles south of Solebury Township, Pennsylvania. After being given the approval to run with the case by her patrol supervisor, Officer Freer began an intensive investigation into the man's disappearance; she obtained video of the truck that he was last seen getting into near his home.

Officer Freer obtained the name of the truck owner and talked to the missing person's friends, who told her that he was supposed to go dirt bike riding with some other people. She found that the truck owner's family had a farm property in Solebury—an ideal place to ride dirt bikes. At the large farm, she met up with other officers and soon discovered two vehicles belonging to two other missing teens from different parts of the county. The team had the farm secured as a potential crime scene, and Officer Freer went to the eventual accused murderer's home in Bensalem, about 25 miles south of the farm. Officer Freer spoke to his mother, who seemed nervous and upset but stated that her son was not at home.

Eventually, through a week-long intensive crime scene investigation—in which several police departments, county detectives, the county district attorney's office, the state police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation all participated—the bodies of four young men were found buried in graves on the farm. All had been murdered execution-style. Cosmo DiNardo and his cousin Sean Kratz, both 20 years old, were both charged with the murders of the four young men. DiNardo has since confessed to the murders. Kratz has not.





This was a tremendous effort of policing and police investigation, and Officer Freer has received several awards for her investigative effort including the Philadelphia National Liberty Museum Award of Valor in September 2017. Officer Freer also had her actions read into the record of the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. Officer Freer brought closure to the families of these missing young men whose bodies were found on the farm. Without the investigative effort of Officer Megan Freer, the family farm where the bodies were found might never have been discovered.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Andrew Beuschel, Jr.

Evesham Township Police Department (New Jersey)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



On December 26, 2017, Detective Beuschel responded to a report of a possible drug overdose by a 15-year-old girl. In the room with her, the officers found a clear plastic bag and a black CD case containing two lines of a white, powdery substance slightly tinted brown, which from the officers' experience and training led them to suspect it was heroin. In fact it was heroin, and it also tested positive for methyl fentanyl and quinine or noscapine. The girl was pronounced dead at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia two days later; the medical examiner confirmed the presence of free morphine, which is indicative of a heroin overdose.

Detective Beuschel interviewed one of the victim's friends, who reported that the victim had purchased \$100 worth of heroin a week earlier. The friend described packaging similar to that found at the scene of the overdose. The friend also provided the cell phone number of the suspected seller, along with his Facebook user name, and confirmed that the victim was not a habitual heroin user; she had only started using within the last few months.

Pursuant to warrants, Detective Beuschel gained access and viewed Facebook messages and text-message conversations in which the victim and the suspect discussed and arranged the sale and delivery of narcotics. Detective Beuschel identified cell phone location information confirming that the suspect was within 0.1 miles of where the victim was residing at the time of the transaction. The meeting took about a month to facilitate, further illustrating how the victim was not a habitual user and did not





have easy access to other dealers. A more thorough review of the victim's phone confirmed that she did not have conversations nor attempt to meet up with any other individuals regarding drug transactions. Furthermore, she was home schooled and did not drive. The victim's cell phone only pinged on two cell phone towers near her residence before and after meeting with the suspect. In short, that suspect must have been the supplier of the victim's fatal dose of heroin.

A warranted search of the suspect's bedroom revealed plastic packaging identical to that found at the scene of the overdose along with other various narcotics and paraphernalia. In the suspect's car, officers located a ledger that detailed several other narcotics sales. Recent conversations and searches on the suspect's cell phone confirmed that he had become concerned with the victim's overdose; he had a conversation with another individual about "catching a body"—that is, killing a person—but not wanting to stop selling narcotics, and he conducted Internet searches of law enforcement investigating drug overdose deaths. Furthermore, the suspect conducted other searches before the victim's death: "how to get people addicted to heroin," "how to bag up dope," and "how to cut heroin with fentanyl." Ultimately, Detective Beuschel was able to secure warrants for the arrest of the suspect on charges of possession of heroin, distribution of heroin, and strict liability for the drug-induced death of the 15-year-old victim.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Trooper Joel D. Follmer

Pennsylvania State Police

Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)



State Trooper Joel D. Follmer's determined efforts and innovative policing techniques on an 18-month series of kidnapping and rape investigations throughout Pennsylvania led to the arrest of a serial rapist with assaults dating back as far as 1994. The suspect is currently awaiting trial.

On July 20, 2016, a man entered a Northumberland County residence occupied by a woman shortly after her husband had left for work at the state correctional institution (SCI) in Coal Township. The man assaulted the woman, bound her hands with zip ties, and blindfolded and gagged her, eventually choking her to unconsciousness. He transported her to a different location, where he raped her. The man then returned the woman to a cornfield near her residence. She was transported to a hospital, where DNA found in the rape kit was a match to DNA from an attempted abduction in 2012. On April 23, 2017, Pennsylvania State Police received a report of another nearby rape with similar details; a rape kit again identified DNA that matched the previous cases.

At this point, it was apparent to Trooper Follmer that he was pursuing a serial rapist. Based on stalking and restraint techniques and attempts to destroy evidence, Trooper Follmer suspected the assailant might have law enforcement or military training. He also believed the assailant had searched the victim or her address electronically. He and other state troopers served Google with a warrant requesting information on





any searches of the victim's name and address prior to the rape. He also conducted a mass media blitz, following up with canvasses of the area near each victim. He executed search warrants on Facebook and cell tower examinations and created a pamphlet to hand out at each residence with public details of the investigation and a hotline number to call in with any tips.

On November 29, 2017, Google responded to the warrant; Trooper Follmer determined that John E. Kurtz of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, had searched for the 2016 victim's address four hours prior to her kidnapping and rape. Just as Trooper Follmer had suspected, Kurtz was a prison guard at SCI Coal Township and would have known the work schedule of the husband of that victim. Less than three weeks later, DNA on cigarette butts recovered in round-the-clock surveillance of Kurtz confirmed it was his DNA in the rape kits. Trooper Follmer arrested Kurtz on December 18, 2017; Kurtz immediately confessed to several cases, and provided information on many others that he had attempted in the past and was planning in the future.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Sergeant Girard Tell III and Sergeant Ryan VanSyckle

Pleasantville Police Department (New Jersey)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



Sergeants Ryan VanSyckle and Girard Tell III are members of the Pleasantville Police Department's Street Crimes Unit. Pleasantville is a bedroom community to Atlantic City and home of some of the worst foreclosure rates in the nation; it is also a center of regional gang violence and drug trafficking. These two

officers—both recently promoted to sergeant—are assigned to a flexible shift and report to the Violent Crimes Unit supervisor. The unit was created in 2016, and Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell are currently the only full-time members.

Since the formation of the Street Crimes Unit, Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell have consistently led the department in arrests and drug seizures. They have built an impressive professional network of local, state, county, and federal partners, resulting in a regional investigation that eventually netted more than 100 felony indictments against the South Side Mob street gang.

When the South Side Mob gained wide attention after a daylight shootout on the Atlantic City Expressway in Hamilton Township, Sergeants VanSyckle and Tell—known for their persistence in seeking out and dismantling criminal street gangs—were assigned to assist with the investigation. While the New Jersey State Police were the lead agency in the investigation, the Pleasantville sergeants were assigned to assist with the case because of their extensive network of confidential infor-





mants and community sources. Locally, the steady downward trend of gun violence since the unit's formation (specifically a 55 percent decrease in confirmed shooting calls for service) is due in large part to the efforts of these sergeants—not only to their individual body of work but also to their unique ability to leverage local arrests to regional investigations with law enforcement partners.

Both Sergeants Tell and VanSyckle get to know the people who live in Pleasantville by spending much of their shifts in the community on a daily basis, often enduring significant risks to their own safety to safeguard the safety of the people of Pleasantville. Sergeants Tell and VanSyckle devote their time to Pleasantville Police investigations and also partner with neighboring departments and county, state, and federal agencies, thus creating an increasingly effective response to a multilayered problem.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Corporal Richard White III

Ohio County Sheriff's Office (West Virginia)

Small agency (serving populations of fewer than 50,000)



On Saturday, June 24, 2017, Corporal Richard White III put himself directly in harm's way—twice—and was instrumental in preventing a tragedy.

That afternoon, 911 dispatch notified law enforcement and fire department agencies that a woman had called the 911 center frantic about several young people who had been flipped out of their kayaks. They were being swept away by swift flood waters in Wheeling Creek. The sighting was reported in the creek area behind Greenwood Cemetery, and Corporal Richard White responded to the area near the creek.

When Corporal White exited his vehicle, he saw a 13-year-old girl being swept downstream by heavy currents. He called out to her, and she replied that she needed help. Corporal White did not hesitate to put himself at risk by entering the swift water; he was able to grab the girl's lifejacket and pull her to shore.

Moments later, he saw an adult woman who was also being swept downstream. Corporal White entered the water a second time and grabbed the far end of the oar the woman was floating on. Corporal White was then able to grab branches of a fallen tree in the water to pull her to the creek bank.





About a year earlier, a little boy had died after falling into the creek. None of the officers working then will ever forget that tragic incident. Corporal White's quick and selfless action on June 24 helped ensure that those circumstances were not repeated.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Deputy Ned Nemeth

Washoe County Sheriff's Office (Nevada)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



Deputy Ned Nemeth is assigned to the Special Operations Division with the Northern Nevada interdiction task force. He is a full time K-9 handler, paired with K-9 Titus. As part of efforts to reduce drug trafficking and thereby reduce the impact of illicit drugs in Washoe County and other areas of the country, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office is a partner in the Nevada High Intensity Drug Trafficking

Area (HIDTA) task force. Deputy Nemeth and Titus work on this task force, primarily on highway interdiction along the I-80 corridor traveling through Washoe County—a known thoroughfare for both drug and currency transporting operations.

Deputy Nemeth's tenacity and work ethic has made an impact on both types of illegal operations. In 2017, he seized more than 200 pounds of illegal marijuana and almost 14 pounds of illegal marijuana extract, almost 360 grams of methamphetamine, more than 40 contraband prescription opioid pain pills, and almost a million dollars in drug money, and he recovered a poached animal and a stolen firearm. He made 12 misdemeanor and 19 felony arrests, wrote 45 primary reports related to highway interdiction stops, contributed to 38 supplemental reports for other agencies, obtained and executed four search warrants for outside agencies leading to the adoption of larger cases, and deployed Titus on 63 narcotics searches for cases being led by other officers.





Along with the time spent on his primary job of highway interdiction, Deputy Nemeth has done many K-9 demonstrations in the community. Some of these are conducted on his own time, and all are highly appreciated by schools and other requesting venues.

Deputy Nemeth is known for providing high quality information about his interstate contacts to other agencies across the country. His efforts as a part of the HIDTA task force in northern Nevada not only have positive effects on his own community but also make meaningful contributions to other jurisdictions working to disrupt and dismantle organized drug trafficking operations nationwide.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Detective Thomas Curley

Wilmington Police Department (Delaware)

Medium agency (serving populations between 50,000 and 250,000)



Detective Thomas Curley works closely in conjunction with other detectives and officers in the Wilmington Police Department as well as with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and other law enforcement agencies in Delaware and other states to investigate and solve gang-related murders and other violent crimes.

During an eight-month investigation in 2010, Detective Curley determined that members of the Trapstars street gang were responsible for a homicide along with other violent criminal acts throughout the city. Most gang members took pleas and even agreed to testify against other gang members. Those who went to trial were found guilty on charges including murder, assaults, firearms offenses, and illegal gang participation. This was the first successful illegal gang prosecution in the state of Delaware; it was appealed up to the Delaware Supreme Court, where the convictions were upheld.

In 2012, members of the SureShots street gang were indicted in the shooting deaths of two people after an extensive and exhaustive investigation that revealed an escalation of violence beginning with drug-related crimes in 2003, continuing with firearms offenses, and including a connection to a 2008 homicide. Detective Curley's work contributed to securing a 24-count indictment, charging multiple Sureshots gang members





with a range of crimes over a 10-year period including murder, attempted murder, drug trafficking, drug dealing, assault, illegal gang participation, firearm offenses, and receiving stolen property.

In other cases, Detective Curley's efforts have led to the captures and guilty pleas or convictions of suspects in at least four different murders in the three years from 2015 to 2017. Detective Curley's particular ability to locate and build rapport with witnesses has resulted in justice for the victims of these violent crimes.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Officers Jeremiah Beason, Patrick Burke, Monty Fetherston, and Steve Morris, Jr.

*Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (Nevada)
Large agency (serving populations more than 250,000)*



On October 1, 2017, a lone gunman fired into a crowd of 22,000 concertgoers attending a country music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, killing 58 people and injuring more than 850. Officers Jeremiah Beason and Monty Fetherston rushed from their assigned positions at traffic control to the Mandalay Bay hotel. When they arrived, they observed smoke coming from a window in the north tower—so much smoke that they could not see muzzle flash. A tunnel led them into the casino. They called for a Mandalay Bay security officer, who quickly escorted them to the service

elevator and up to the 32nd floor. As they arrived, Officers Beason and Fetherston smelled gunpowder. Several security officers were in the center core of the hotel, including one who appeared to have been shot in the calf. They said the shooter was at the end of the hall and had shot into the hallway. Officer Beason had his rifle and Officer Fetherston had a handgun covering the wing toward the suspect's suite approximately 110 yards away. They knew they needed more officers before advancing down the hallway.

Officers Patrick Burke and Steve Morris had been assigned to the front stage area at the music event when the shooting began. A woman near the front of the stage was shot in the chest; her husband looked to the





officers for help. Officer Burke jumped over the fence he and Officer Morris were standing behind, grabbed the woman, and handed her over the fence to Officer Morris, who took her to a paramedic nearby. Officers Burke and Morris then made their way through thousands of fleeing people to Officer Morris's vehicle and drove to the Mandalay Bay. They, too, were escorted to the 32nd floor. Officers Burke and Morris joined Officers Beason and Fetherston, got a master room key from Mandalay Bay security officers, and developed a plan to advance down the hallway and clear the guest rooms. Officers Beason and Morris were in the lead with their rifles, with Officers Fetherston and Morris following with their handguns. Many of the rooms were occupied, and the Mandalay Bay security officers assisted in getting hotel guests off the 32nd floor and down to safety.

Officers observed multiple bullet holes and debris as they advanced to the suspect's suite. As Officers Beason, Burke, Fetherston, and Morris cleared the floor, another group of officers arrived in the stairwell and joined the two teams in clearing guest rooms. Officers held the floor approximately halfway down the hallway and waited for another contingent of officers, including a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team, to breach the suspect's suite.

Officers found the suspect on the ground with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head when they entered the suite. Officers Beason, Burke, Fetherston, and Morris continued clearing the floor and rechecking all the guest rooms back to the center core. They secured the 32nd floor for hours—until they were relieved from their post.





FIELD OPERATIONS

Officers Jose Arriaga, Ruben Avalos, Carlos Escobar, Randy Jreisat, Arthur Meza, Ashley Mitchell, David Nick, Jr., Adrian Nuñez, Christina Salas, and Solly Samara

*Los Angeles Police Department (California)
Large agency (serving populations of more than 250,000)*

The Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Area Special Problems Unit (SPU), MacArthur Park Task Force (MPTF), was formed in September 2017. The unit consists of 10 officers and one sergeant to conduct uniform patrol in and around MacArthur Park and other surrounding areas.



The mission was to restore order to the community around MacArthur Park using a full-spectrum approach by directing constant law enforcement and community involvement to the area in and around MacArthur Park. This is a coordinated effort using all available law enforcement and community-based resources to combat crime and quality-of-life issues in the area. At



the inception of the MPTF, MacArthur Park and its surrounding areas were ravaged by homelessness, street robberies, gang activity, assaults with deadly weapons, narcotic sales,





and sexual assaults. The MPTF established a multiphase approach to the problem. They forged partnerships with the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles Park Rangers, Council District 1, Los Angeles City Attorney Neighborhood Prosecutor, MacArthur Park Advisory Board, Youth Policy Institute, and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Officers started by conducting community outreach for homeless people and individuals addicted to drugs in MacArthur Park. While officers were conducting this outreach, they established clear rules in MacArthur Park. Officers worked with Parks and Recreation and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to get those rules and laws clearly posted for all to see. Officers then moved to an enforcement phase. The MPTF made 1,125 arrests in 32 weeks and issued 980 citations, offered services to hundreds of individuals, and is directly responsible for a 40 percent reduction in part 1 crimes and a 46 percent reduction in violent crimes in the focus area.

Rampart SPU MPTF has taken a personal ownership of the MacArthur Park area, and they pride themselves in the decrease in crime and the transformation that has occurred while working with their community partners.







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

