



39th

VALOR AWARDS

PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE WILLIAM CHAMBER FOUNDATION

Hylton Performing Arts Center
May 21, 2025

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A WARM WELCOME

To the 39th Annual Prince William Valor Awards Ceremony!



Today we recognize the men and women who go above and beyond to protect and serve our communities.

These brave individuals vow to ensure safety for our families, their selfless commitment and sacrifices to serve others is truly remarkable. Each year, I look forward to this event where our local heroes are awarded for their dedication and bravery. I am honored to recognize the individuals who put their lives at risk every day.

On behalf of the Prince William Chamber Foundation, we are grateful to be putting on this event and we hope you enjoy this year's program in your honor.

Bob Sweeney
President & CEO
Prince William Chamber Foundation



Sentara Health has had the honor of being the presenting sponsor of the Prince William Chamber Valor Awards for many years.

It is our privilege to recognize and honor the 2025 Valor Award recipients.

We salute all the first responders and support teams who bravely serve Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park every day. Your commitment, dedication, and collaboration contribute immeasurably to making ours a community of choice where individuals, families, and businesses choose to live, work and play.

To this year's award recipients, we commend you and extend our sincere gratitude to you for your selfless commitment to serving our community.

Debra Lee, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center



MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JULIANA VALENCIA is an Emmy-winning reporter in two languages for News4 and Telemundo 44. She's part of the New4 Today team and a regular fill-in anchor. Since Valencia joined News4 in October 2019, she's reported on historic moments such as the Jan. 6 insurrection, Supreme Court rulings and the funeral proceedings of Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor. Working early mornings, she was one of the first journalists on the scene of the Key Bridge collapse in Baltimore, providing coverage the entire week.



Before moving to D.C., Valencia was a weekday anchor in Louisville at WHAS11, where she launched the only weekday Spanish webcast in the region. Valencia also worked as a reporter and anchor in Paducah, Kentucky. She also had her share of one-man-band experiences in New Bern, North Carolina. She began her career as an intern at CNN in Atlanta and is a proud graduate of the University of Florida, where she swam on the club swim and dive team. Valencia is accustomed to moving to new places. As a child, she moved six times, spending most of her time in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Nashville, Tennessee, where her parents still reside. Her parents, immigrants from Colombia, raised their only child in a Spanish-speaking home. Valencia now lives in Dupont Circle with Wilson, her dog from college.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JESSICA FAITH is a StormTeam4 meteorologist whose forecasts can be seen during the weekend editions of News4 at 6 and News4 at 11 and throughout the week on NBC4 and its streaming platforms.

Prior to joining NBC4 in 2023, Faith worked at WPXI-TV, where she was the first Black female TV meteorologist in the city's history. She also worked at WAFF-TV in Huntsville and KLTV-TV in Tyler, Texas. At both of those stations, Faith honed her skills at forecasting severe weather, including heat waves and hurricanes. Originally

from Alabama, Faith graduated from Alabama A&M University with a degree in communications. She also completed the broadcast meteorology program at Mississippi State University, where she was awarded Best Meteorologist.



Faith and her husband are happy to be living in his native Prince George's County.

ORDER OF EVENTS

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Prince William County Public Safety Honor Guard
Eamonn Radburn, Pipe Major

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Police Officer Celine B. Wykowski

WELCOME

Prince William Chamber of Commerce

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PRINCE WILLIAM VALOR AWARDS PRESENTATION

Juliana Valencia & Jessica Faith, NBC4

CLOSING REMARKS

Photographer, Mike Beaty

VALOR AWARDS

VALOR AWARDS CRITERIA

GOLD AWARD

The highest award for bravery and heroism. Nominee lost his/her life or endured seriously life-threatening injuries. Awarded in situations where a public safety official knowingly places his/her life in peril while saving or attempting to save the lives of others who are clearly at risk.

SILVER AWARD

Recognition of acts involving significant personal risk and bravery beyond what is expected during the normal performance of duty. The second highest award for bravery and heroism. No life-threatening injuries occurred. Awarded in situations where a public safety official knowingly exposes himself/herself to great personal risk or they faced a near-death experience.

BRONZE AWARD

Recognition of acts involving personal risk and demonstrating unusual judgment, zeal, and/or ingenuity during an emergency, when such action is beyond what is normally expected. May include the saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons, but no near-death experiences occurred.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Recognition of an individual or group for integrity in investigative work, or the outstanding overall supervision of a particularly unusual case that is brought to a successful conclusion. Collaborative work to solve an exceptionally difficult case that requires a large amount of investigative and forensic work. May include solving a cold case or clearing an exceptionally difficult active case. This award can be awarded to a group or to an individual.

VALOR AWARDS CRITERIA

MERIT AWARD

Awarded to a public safety official for demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what is normally expected. May include a cumulative body of investigative work contributing to the successful closure of a major case or series of cases. May include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons or performing a lifesaving act in unusual circumstances.

UNIT AWARD

Awarded for bravery and heroism of an entire unit who demonstrates extraordinary judgment or ingenuity in a cooperative fashion. Unit works together and exemplifies above average teamwork, may include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons. Multiple members of the team may have exposed themselves to great personal risk in the performance of an official act or gone above what is normally expected in the performance of their duties.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Awarded to a public safety official for demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity above what is normally expected. May include saving of a life that is threatened by medical or physical reasons or performing a lifesaving act in unusual circumstances. May include coordinating and implementing public safety operations during a catastrophic event, or collection and delivery of important first response information that leads to successful completion of an emergency call.



Honoring those who put others first.

We are proud to partner with the Prince William Chamber of Commerce to sponsor the annual Valor Awards.

Collaborations like this honor those who make our communities safer and stronger.

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HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Manassas Park Police Department

AWARDEES

Captain Steve Loving, Captain Dustin Walker, Lieutenant Matthew Willeke, Lieutenant Joshua Truslow, Lieutenant Andrew Bussell, Sergeant Michael Shepherd, Detective Thomas Wheeler, Detective Christopher Seise, Detective Claudia Ventura, Detective John Hemphill, Detective Stephen Oxendine, Officer Epidio Munoz-Pineda

Prince William County Police Department:

Crime Scene Specialist Andrea M. Feldman, Crime Scene Specialist Joseph M. Restino, Master Police Officer Alexander M. Corder, Master Police Officer Brian T. Coady, Master Police Officer Corey C. Morrell

On August 5th, 2024, the Manassas Park Police Department received an official report of a missing mother, Mamta Kafle. The preliminary information significantly lacked investigative leads and the inconsistent statements made by the husband, Naresh Bhatt presented challenges in this investigation.

In addition, the delayed reporting, multi-jurisdictional, and international components only exacerbated these added challenges. Due to the circumstances surrounding her disappearance, the agency assembled an Investigative Team to investigate this complex case. Over the next four months, the team worked rigorously, conducting hours of interviews, numerous ground searches, and meticulously reviewing surveillance footage, cellphone, and financial records. The team obtained and executed more than 40 search warrants, subpoenas, and court orders to advance the investigation and uncover the truth.

On August 21, 2024, a search warrant was executed at Mamta and Naresh's residence, where the team uncovered gruesome and compelling evidence suggesting that Mamta had been murdered. As a result of the search warrant, Naresh was arrested and charged with the Concealment of a Dead Body.

To ensure Mamta's killer was brought to justice, the Investigative team continued their investigative efforts. These efforts included interviews, following up on leads and hundreds of tips, and numerous ground searches. Which led to the discovery of vital evidence being uncovered throughout Northern Virginia. The evidence collected in this investigation was submitted for forensic and DNA analysis, which revealed that Naresh was responsible for the murder of Mamta.

BRONZE AWARD

Manassas Park Police Department

AWARDEE

Officer Jason Crites

On July 24, 2024, Officer J. Crites responded to the report of a suicidal subject in Signal Hill Park. Upon his arrival, Officer Crites located the individual, who was armed with a handgun. As Officer Crites attempted to engage the subject in conversation, the subject held the gun to his head. Officer Crites remained calm and attempted to de-escalate the situation. During the nearly hour-long standoff, Officer Crites demonstrated compassion at the highest level. Officer Crites' patience and willingness to share his journey ultimately led to the subject putting the gun down.

Officer Crites, without hesitation for his own life and safety, left cover and was able to secure the firearm and successfully take the subject into custody for a mental health evaluation. Officer Crites actions directly saved the life of this individual, who was suffering an extreme mental health crisis. A failure to act or take action after a delay could have led to a tragic outcome.

Transurban proudly sponsors the
2025 Prince William Valor Awards



We're grateful for the first responders whose
bravery and dedication keep our communities safe.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEE

Public Safety Communication Specialist II Matthew Bryant

On December 19, 2024, PSCS II Bryant answered a 911 call from a woman speaking softly, with a man urging her to hang up. The woman's vague responses raised PSCS II Bryant's suspicion, but she claimed to be calling for a friend arguing with her boyfriend to appease the man.

During the nine-minute call, the woman began ordering a pizza, which could have been mistaken for a prank. However, PSCS II Bryant used VESTA/Rapid SOS to pinpoint her location, confirming it discreetly over the phone to avoid alerting the man. PSCS II Bryant could hear the woman occasionally pleading "please stop" while the man's voice was audible in the background, sometimes closer to the phone. As the call progressed, the man became more suspicious, and the woman started asking for "extra breadsticks and garlic sauce," signaling an escalating situation.

Towards the end, the man grew agitated and demanded she hang up. His tone shifted, revealing that he realized she wasn't calling for a friend, and he sounded aggressive. Simultaneously, PSCS II Bryant coordinated a police response. The call concluded successfully, with officers locating the woman thanks to PSCS II Bryant's skillful use of available tools, including Rapid SOS. He also discreetly determined if weapons were involved.

PSCS II Bryant's exceptional professionalism, judgment, and ingenuity, exceeding expectations, deserve recognition. Although the woman didn't explicitly report harm, a subsequent police investigation revealed a sex offense had occurred.

MERIT AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEES

Senior Police Officer Evan Ricapito, Senior Police Officer Cody Stadtman, Senior Police Officer Joseph Siemek, Officer Sean Rios

On January 14, 2024, officers were dispatched to the Brentwood Apartments for a report of a possible shooting. Upon their arrival, they located a critically-wounded adult male shooting victim who had sustained substantial blood loss and was slipping in and out of consciousness. Senior Police Officer (SPO) Ricapito, Officer Rios, SPO Siemek, and SPO Stadtman reacted quickly in utilizing their training to engage in life-saving treatment efforts. SPO Stadtman provided SPO Ricapito a tourniquet. As SPO Ricapito applied the tourniquet to the victim's limb, Officer Rios applied direct pressure to the victim's wounds. As this medical aid was being rendered, SPO Siemek engaged the victim in verbal conversation, a vital lifeline to keeping the victim from slipping into outright unconsciousness.

The officers worked with a sense of purpose and urgency, all while acutely aware of potential danger lurking in the immediate vicinity, as the whereabouts of the shooter remained unknown. As officers rendered medical aid, SPO Stadtman, armed with his rifle, established a safety perimeter that shielded his fellow officers as they continued life-saving measures. SPO Stadtman also communicated with nearby citizens, collecting crucial information while directing traffic around the chaotic scene to preserve vital evidence. The teamwork amongst the officers was remarkable and allowed for a sense of hope to be maintained amidst the uncertainty.

Eventually, rescue personnel arrived and took over life-saving efforts. Thanks to the rapid response and extraordinary collaboration of the officers, the victim was transported to a local hospital and, against all odds, ultimately survived.

The unwavering dedication of these officers not only exemplified their bravery, but ultimately saved a life. Their swift actions and relentless teamwork unmistakably made the difference between life and death that fateful evening.

MERIT AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEES

*Master Detective Tim Urey, Master Detective Juan Armas,
Senior Police Officer Terrell Duck, Public Safety Communications Specialist II
Alexis Guinn, Sergeant Stephanie Jones*

On September 5, 2024, a frantic call alerted police to a juvenile in distress near Zebedee Street. SPO Duck quickly determined the unthinkable: the girl had been abducted near Clover Hill Road and Trinity Lane while walking to school. A man posing as a Police Officer had forced her into his car, stealing her belongings in the process. The brave victim escaped by jumping from the moving vehicle, finding refuge with a passing good Samaritan.

Master Detective Urey joined SPO Duck at the hospital, piecing together the events. With no prior connection between the victim and suspect, the investigation was immediately challenging. Still, detectives painstakingly reconstructed the suspect's route, leading Sergeant Jones to coordinate a search for evidence. The team uncovered crucial video footage, yielding a description of the suspect's vehicle. A public appeal, including the vehicle's image, was swiftly issued.

The following day, Public Safety Communication Specialist II (PSCS II) Guinn received a vital call from a Maryland resident who recognized the vehicle from the press release. The caller provided the suspect's address, chillingly close to the abduction site. Recognizing the urgency, PSCS II Guinn relayed the information to Master Detective Urey, who, along with Master Detective Armas, promptly located the suspect.

Initially evasive, the suspect eventually confessed when confronted with the mounting evidence. Working with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Master Detective Urey secured charges of kidnapping, robbery, impersonation, and larceny. Simultaneously, Master Detective Armas obtained a nighttime search warrant. The warrant was executed, uncovering further evidence linking the suspect to the crime. He was arrested and held without bond.

The rapid and decisive actions of Master Detectives Urey and Armas, SPO Duck, PSCS II Guinn, and Sergeant Jones led to quick apprehension of a dangerous criminal. Their dedication and expertise resolved a complex case in under two days.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEES

Master Detective Patrick Crossey

Master Detective Brittany Alexander

Sergeant Gregory Daisey

Over the past few months, the Vice Narcotics Task Force began monitoring a social media account linked to a known fentanyl dealer in the City of Manassas. Master Detective Crossey collaborated with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to develop a confidential informant who had direct access to the dealer.

After conducting over twenty hours of covert surveillance, the Task Force established a pattern of the dealer's activities by gathering information about vehicles and buyers associated with his residence. A covert camera was set up in the area to ensure real-time monitoring, leading to controlled purchases of fentanyl. In total, the Task Force bought 5,000 fentanyl pills from the dealer.

On January 30, 2024, the Task Force positioned themselves around the dealer's home, armed with a search warrant and an arrest warrant for the distribution of Schedule I/II substances. When the dealer and two associates left the residence, they were followed to the Manassas Probation Office. A preplanned arrest team approached their vehicle in the parking lot, detaining the subjects without incident. During the arrest, law enforcement recovered firearms and additional fentanyl pills.

Subsequently, officers executed the search warrant at the dealer's residence, uncovering a staggering 66,000 fentanyl pills, along with cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms, marijuana, nearly \$5,000 in cash, and over \$40,000 in high-end jewelry. Six firearms were also seized, one of which was reported stolen.

This operation represents one of the most significant narcotics seizures in the department's recent history, estimating that the dealer was selling over 100,000 fentanyl pills weekly. The arrest dealt a heavy blow to the dangerous narcotics distribution network in Manassas. Master Detective Crossey, Master Detective Alexander, and Sergeant Daisey were instrumental in this successful investigation, showcasing their dedication and hard work.

SILVER AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEES

Senior Police Officer Simon Storti, Police Officer Amanda Tondi, Police Officer Abigail Shorkey, Police Officer Danielle Coulter, Sergeant Jonathan Casteline

On October 15, 2024, at approximately 5:26 AM, SPO S. Storti of the Manassas City Police Department was flagged down by rescue personnel who reported an active shooter at the courthouse. Without hesitation and risking their safety, SPO. Storti, Officers A. Tondi, D. Coulter, A. Shorkey, and Sergeant J. Casteline responded swiftly as fragmented information came through. They learned that a male armed with a rifle and carrying a duffel bag was on the courthouse grounds with conflicting reports of shots fired.

SPO Storti quickly located the individual and began issuing commands. Additional responding officers, including SPO Storti, maintained hard cover where they could find it and while displaying their assigned rifles and pistols continued their efforts to de-escalate the incident.

Incident Command was established promptly and a strategic plan was formulated to safely apprehend the suspect. Officers Tondi, Coulter, and Shorkey, along with Prince William County Police, coordinated efforts behind a shield and successfully took the person into custody without incident.

Further investigation revealed that the individual was in the midst of a mental health crisis and had been the caller reporting the active shooter, unknowingly describing himself as the shooter. The individual was provided the needed medical assistance post-incident.

The national average of a patrol response to a reported active shooter is three (3) minutes. Manassas City Police responded and had the subject subdued in four (4) minutes and twelve (12) seconds. Fortunately, no one was harmed during this incident and this is the direct result of the quick response of these exceptional men and women. Their bravery, decisive action, and seamless coordination under extreme pressure exemplify heroism beyond the call of duty.

CONGRATULATIONS HONOREES!

"Even against the greatest of odds, there is something in the human spirit - a magic blend of skill, faith, and valor..."

- Walter Lord, American Author



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SILVER AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

AWARDEES

Master Police Officer Shaun Barrett, Officer Juan Alvarado, Senior Detective Edgar Diaz, Senior Police Officer Khalia Bowden, Sergeant Luis Armas, Public Safety Communication Specialist Alyssa Coulter, Public Safety Communication Specialist Ethan Eustace, Public Safety Communication Specialist II Matt Bryant, Public Safety Communication Center Supervisor James Moran

On February 23, 2024, the Manassas City Public Safety Communication Center (PSCC) received a 9-1-1 call from a frantic woman reporting a shooting in progress. Public Safety Communication Specialist (PSCS) Alyssa Coulter was the primary call taker and calmly gathered information from the caller, who was hiding under a table due to the “non-stop” gunfire. PSCC Supervisor, James Moran, assisted as the secondary call taker. PSCS II Matt Bryant and PSCS Ethan Eustace were the assigned dispatchers. The team collectively obtained critical details, including the locations of other occupants and questions about weapons, while coordinating immediate police assistance.

The caller’s husband, and six-year-old son were inside the residence. Arriving officers, MPO Barrett, MPO Alvarado, Senior Detective Diaz, SPO Bowden, and Sergeant Armas, entered the residence to ensure occupant safety without knowing the shooter’s location. They learned from the caller that her son might have committed suicide in his bedroom. As the officers attempted to assess the situation, they noticed bullet holes in the bedroom door. Suddenly, a gunshot was heard, with a bullet traveling through a wall, narrowly missing the officers and the family.

The officers evacuated and took cover behind police vehicles. While outside the residence, and having a clear line of sight of the structure, MPO Barrett observed a green laser, consistent with one being mounted on a firearm, being aimed at police officers and bystanders. During the encounter, to protect the lives of police officers and bystanders’ MPO Barrett fired three gunshots at the suspect. The shooter refused commands to exit and barricaded himself.

SILVER AWARD

Manassas City Police Department

continued ...

After several hours, the suspect surrendered and was treated for non-life-threatening wounds and charged with multiple firearms offenses. Thanks to the leadership and communication efforts of all staff involved, no law enforcement or bystanders were injured during this critical incident.

MERIT AWARD

City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department

AWARDEES

*Assistant Fire Marshal, Justin Laidler,
Deputy Fire Marshal, Justin Hruneni*

During late summer 2024, a spree of dumpster fires had been occurring in the Wellington Place Apartments. In total, six (6) separate fires were set. Both Deputy Fire Marshal Justin Hruneni and Assistant Fire Marshal Justin Laidler were assigned to investigate these fires. Multiple people, all of whom may have witnessed acts leading up to, or after these fires were set, including residents, visitors, fire and rescue personnel, and business owners were interviewed. The Fire Marshals went door to door asking questions and viewing hours of video footage from residents and nearby businesses.

Due to the collaborative investigative work by the Fire Marshals, a suspect was brought in for interrogation and later confessed; he was arrested and taken into custody.

Shortly thereafter, the dumpster fires began again. DFM Hruneni and AFM Laidler immediately checked on the status of their suspect and found he had made bail and been released. They began contacting community residents once again to track down video footage. Again, they brought the same suspect in and once again, he confessed. This time he was charged with maliciously setting a fire capable of spreading on land. Thanks to the diligent efforts of the Fire Marshals the suspect, a 35-year-old male resident of the community where the fires were set, was held with no bond.

Thankfully, due to the investigative work done by the Fire Marshal team, they were able to take a serial arsonist, in his infancy, off the street before his deviant actions could escalate into more serious areas; perhaps vehicles in the neighborhood parking lot, or even the apartment buildings themselves. The collaboration, training, and diligent law enforcement skills demonstrated by this team were extraordinary.



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UNIT AWARD

City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department (CMFRD)
City of Manassas Park Fire and Rescue
Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue

AWARDEES

City of Manassas Fire and Rescue

Medic 501 (M501):

Firefighter/ALS Charles "John" Sakevich

Firefighter Christopher Stickley

Firefighter/ALS Laureano Avila-Mora (no longer with the department)

Medic 521B (M521B):

Firefighter/ALS Jared Burkhammer

Firefighter Matthew Tinkham

Firefighter/ALS Matthew Whalen

EMS581:

Lieutenant William Barton

Prince William County Department of Fire Rescue

EMS502:

Captain Sam Kaye

Yorkshire Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance 508B (A508B):

Firefighter/EMT Jianell Present

Firefighter/EMT Tamara Fikentscher

Technician II Joseph Parisi

Technician Alyssa Farthing

UNIT AWARD

AWARDEES cont.

Manassas Park Fire Rescue

Medic 509 (M509):

Firefighter/EMT Dylan Martin

Firefighter/EMT Hunter Rinker

Fire Medic Kristen Kasel (no longer with the department)

September 26, 2024 started off as any other Fall morning; temperatures were cooling, leaves were falling, and kids were back in school. A family of five on Weems Road was sound asleep until they heard the crashing of a skylight in their hallway. Mom and Dad instantly sprung awake to check what happened; that's when they saw that fire had invaded their home. Mom began looking for a way out while Dad began to save their three children and two pets.

All five occupants had jumped from a second-story window onto the ground to escape the raging fire.

Fire and Rescue units were notified at 5:22am; by the time they arrived, the sky had opened up and there was a downpour of rain. Immediately crews noticed that occupants were out of the home so while suppression crews began knocking out the fire, EMS crews established a triage area and began trying to gather all the patients to assess their injuries and burns.

The EMS crews worked collaboratively as a team during triage. Due to the heavy rains, no medical helicopters were flying so they had to quickly devise a creative plan for how to transport all five patients and to where. The majority of the family required burn units several miles away in DC. Airways needed to be secured, burns and injuries addressed, and the ability to calm their patients who had just experienced a horrific event, were separated from their family members, and were unsure the extent of their injuries and their families' injuries. It was a traumatic and emotional time for the family members and the EMS team did a spectacular job of easing those fears while ensuring they were transported safely in bad weather, several miles away, during rush hour traffic.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Sheriff's Office

AWARDEE

Deputy Mackenzie Miller

November 8, 2024, at 5:00pm, a nonverbal, autistic, 9-year-old was reported missing and endangered in Fairfax County. He was last seen at his bus stop. Deputy Mackenzie Miller resides in Fairfax County and learned of the missing child at approximately 5:46pm when an email from her son's school was sent to notify parents. Fairfax County Police were utilizing bloodhounds and a helicopter to search; they also reached out for the community's help.

Deputy Miller was off duty when she joined a group of neighbors to help search the area for the child. After several hours of searching, the child had still not been found. The Fairfax County Police called for all search volunteers to report to the staging area to regroup and reassess the search area. At approximately 11:00pm as Deputy Miller was returning to the staging area, she noticed an open fence gate surrounding a drainage pond near Union Village Circle.

Deputy Miller recalled that when she passed the gate earlier, it was closed. As Deputy Miller checked the fence, she noticed holes in the fence large enough for a child to fit through. Deputy Miller checked the area behind the fence and found the child hiding in shrubbery surrounding the drainage pond. Deputy Miller contacted Fairfax Police and advised them she had found the child. The ambient temperature during the entirety of the search was roughly 49 degrees; the child had been missing for more than 6 hours in the cold weather and darkness. Deputy Miller was off duty and at home when she received the email asking for help from the community; she didn't hesitate to jump into action and search for the child. Thanks to her excellent memory and keen awareness, she located the child unharmed, and he was able to be safely reunited with his family.



Honoring Heroes:
ALD & Associates LLC
Salutes Our
First Responders

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Join us in honoring these extraordinary individuals at the Prince William County Valor Awards. Together, we celebrate those who protect and serve.

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Building a Safer Community Together.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Paramedic Rescue 502:

Lieutenant Austin Wing, Technician II Jonathan Carter,

Technician II Marcio Midence

SILVER AWARD

AWARDEE

Technician II Thomas Sedell

On August 23, 2024, Paramedic Rescue 502 was dispatched to an EMS call in their first due area. While en route, the officer of Rescue 502 recognized that a car fire was being dispatched in their direction of travel. Rescue 502 contacted communications and advised that they would be diverting to the car fire and to place another unit on the initial EMS call. As Rescue 502 arrived on scene, multiple panicked citizens approached the rig and stated that there was still someone inside of one of the vehicles. Communications was simultaneously upgrading the call to an accident with entrapment. Paramedic Rescue 502 positioned to block traffic and protect the incident scene observing a two-vehicle accident with one vehicle well involved with fire in the passenger compartment.

Technician II Sedell, the driver of Rescue 502, immediately donned his bunker coat and gloves, grabbed a dry chemical extinguisher and proceeded to initiate fire attack while simultaneously attempting to rescue the victim. The rest of the crew donned full structural PPE and SCBA and promptly proceeded to the vehicle with two water cans to continue rescue efforts. Rescue 502's crew withstood high heat conditions without the protection of a hoseline and were able to remove the victim rapidly from the burning vehicle.

The entire crew should be commended for their ability to mentally transition from one call type to another and for operating efficiently during a high-acuity call. It was later determined by police that the individual had pumped almost 20 gallons of gasoline into the passenger compartment of their vehicle prior to the incident. This contributed to the intense heat and flames that the crew experienced creating heightened potential for harm to the crew.

For this act of bravery, selflessness and the willingness to attempt to preserve life, Paramedic Rescue 502 should be commended.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Engine 522:

Captain Harry Wood, Technician II Davin Hoffman, Technician I Connor Armstrong

Engine 508:

Technician II Joshua Herron, Technician II Kyle Straker, Technician I Josue Cuadra

Medic 522:

Technician II Kevin Dewhurst, Technician I Steven Thorne

Medic 511:

Technician II Anthony Rinaldis, Lieutenant Blane McGlothlin

Rescue 522:

Lieutenant Ross Shannon, Technician II Brandon Simon, Technician II Keith Kraus, Technician I Jeremy Bane

Truck 504:

Lieutenant Joshua Thomson, Technician II Kelly Van Wingerden, Technician II Ewan Baird, Technician II William Norman

SF501:

Lieutenant Stephen Horvath

On June 19th, a call came in from the Camping World RV Dealership for the report of an auto accident with possible persons trapped between two campers. Upon arrival, Rescue 522 found a large crowd gathering around two RVs. With staff preparing to utilize a forklift to free two patients who had been pinned in between two campers that had rolled into one another. At this time Engine 522 established command, while Medic 522 requested two helicopters.

Unit officers quickly developed a care, transport and extrication plan, which included the need for additional resources. It was determined that the fastest and safest way to free the two patients was to utilize the winch mounted on Rescue 522, pulling the RV free of the patients. Once free, both patients were packaged and taken to the LZ, where they were flown to the local trauma center. From the time the first unit was on scene, to the time the two patients were extricated was 9 minutes.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

*Captain Kevin Dodson, Technician II Lance Cornell,
Technician I Joseph Clancy*

On the afternoon of October 15, 2024, Capt. Kevin Dodson and the crew of Engine 504 were dispatched to an outside gas leak in the Piedmont Vista neighborhood at 5992 Colby Hunt Ct. Upon arrival, they discovered that a construction crew that was repairing a water line to the residence accidentally severed a 2" gas line. Quickly assessing the situation, Capt. Dodson and his crew determined that the occupants of 5992 Colby Hunt Ct. as well as the adjacent addresses needed to be evacuated from the area. Upon further investigation of the residence, Capt. Dodson decided to relocate his crew and all the citizens in the immediate vicinity of the gas leak to a safer location, while they waited for the gas company. This also included the construction crew and the initial representative from the gas company. After relocating to a safer location, the house at 5992 Colby Hunt Ct. exploded spewing debris in all areas and then quickly became fully engulfed in fire that was now being fueled by the initial gas leak. All the residents and gas company personnel were away from the home at the time of the explosion. The crew from Engine 504 was able to transition from the investigative mode of the gas leak call, to repositioning the fire engine and fighting fire that was starting to spread to multiple houses. Captain Dodson was also able to direct and account for all incoming units as he managed this very dynamic situation. If not for the quick action of Capt. Dodson and the crew of Engine 504, this incident could have resulted in serious injuries or deaths. Capt. Dodson and his crew are to be commended for their heroism, bravery, and professionalism while operating in an extremely hazardous situation.



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FDIC

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Rescue 510:

*Captain Thomas Rish, Lieutenant Christopher Clark,
Technician II John Gillon, Technician II Connor Plocharczyk*

Engine 526:

*Lieutenant Mitchell Nason, Technician II Charles Pistole,
Technician I Abigail Keller*

Truck 523:

*Lieutenant Joshua Dempsey, Technician II Brian Anderson, Technician II
Francis Nurthen, Technician II Adam Mowry, Technician I Chase Walton*

Safety 502:

Lieutenant Sean Jones

Medic 513:

Lieutenant Allen Lagrave, Technician I David Howard

Truck 520:

*Technician II Shaun Polite, Technician II Robert McBurney,
Technician I Benjamin Werkema, Technician II Cody Burgener*

Battalion 502:

Battalion Chief Carl "Chip" Morrison, Technician II John Sawicki

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

On the night of July 28th, 2024, units were dispatched to a confined space rescue in the parking lot of Cheshire Station Plaza in Dale City. Engine 526 arrived on the scene and confirmed that a patient had fallen approximately 15 feet into a stormwater drain through a 17-inch opening. Engine 526 established command and began monitoring the potentially hazardous atmosphere.

Rescue 510 arrived on the scene and quickly developed a rescue plan to remove the patient from the confined space. Two members from Rescue 510 became the number one entry team and prepared for entry into the confined space. Rescue 510's other members began setting up the communications lines and breathing air lines for the entry teams. Truck 523 arrived on the scene and met with Rescue 510 to assist with the rescue operation. Two members from Truck 523 got dressed as a backup team and remained on standby, while other members of Truck 523 began setting up a rope rescue retrieval system. Once the system was in place, rescuers were lowered into the confined space where they assessed of the patient. Due to the severity of the patient's injuries, the patient was packaged and stabilized to prepare for a vertical lift out of the confined space. The patient was hauled out of the storm drain on the rope system and then packaged on a backboard and stretcher where patient care was turned over to Medic 513 and Ambulance 513. They continued treatment and were transported them to Sentara hospital. The actions taken that night made for a successful rescue of the patient in under 30 minutes of the arrival of rescue personnel. Confined Space rescuers are very rare, but it was apparent that these crews had prepared and trained for complex situations like this one.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

Rescue 522:

Technician II Aaron Dillon, Technician II James Spengler, Technician I Brian Zimmerman, Technician I Hunter Mutkus

Truck 511:

Technician II Nicholas Gonnella, Technician II Eric DiBucci, Technician II Aaron Kearns, Technician I Joseph Tate

Medic 511:

Technician II Matthew Gomez, Technician I Alex Armstrong

Truck 504:

Technician II Julie Schwartz, Technician II Thomas "Whitt" Jacobs, Technician II Carl Nunziata, Technician I Garrett Gloska

Engine 522:

Captain Jeremy Moore, Technician II Anthony Aquinto, Technician I Isaac Musser

Engine 511:

Lieutenant Andrew Gorman, Technician II Rahil Nawaz, Technician I Kelvin Carias

BC504:

Battalion Chief Brian Ferguson, Captain Kevin Richards

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

On the afternoon of Saturday, March 9th, west-end units were dispatched for an accident with entrapment. R522 along with company 11 units arrived to find a box truck that had struck a tree with one patient trapped. After a brief initial assessment, R522 determined that this would be an extended extrication. The patient was conscious, but both legs were heavily pinned under what was left of the dashboard. Crews from R522 and T511 began the stabilization and then extrication of the driver, who was suffering from multiple fractures in both legs along with life-threatening internal injuries. During the extrication, the patient went in and out of consciousness as crews worked tirelessly to free him. Personnel utilized hydraulic rams from inside the passenger compartment to push the dash up and away from the patient. EMS581 was requested by BC504 for whole blood due to the blood already lost and the extent of injuries. Crews from all units worked together seamlessly to slowly remove the truck from around the patient, while dealing with pouring rain and extremely difficult terrain. After nearly 40 minutes, the patient was removed from the vehicle and handed over to M511. EM581's assistance with the administration of blood products, proved critical to the positive patient outcome. The medevac helicopters were not flying due to the weather and the patient was ground transported to INOVA Fairfax Trauma Center where the patient immediately went to surgery. All crews on the scene worked very diligently in the face of great adversity to accomplish this extrication, which undoubtedly saved the patient's life.

UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Paramedic Engine 507:

*Lieutenant Stephanie Butler, Technician II Michael Olsen,
Technician I Geoffrey Prall*

Medic 507:

Captain Samuel Kaye, Technician I Jeremy Bane

Rescue 506:

*Lieutenant James Lind, Technician II Michael Shatzer,
Technician II John Cramsey, Technician II Joseph Mirabile*

Rescue 522:

*Technician II Brandon Simon, Technician II Davin Hoffman,
Technician I Adam Sims*

On May 9, 2024, crews were dispatched to the Lake Jackson Dam for reports of a young male who had slipped and fallen hitting his head. Upon arrival of fire and rescue, crews found an 18-year-old male 100 feet down an embankment. Paramedic Engine 507 and Medic 507 navigated through the difficult terrain down to the waterline, just below the dam, and made initial contact with the patient who was disoriented and bleeding from his head. The patient had fallen while walking across the river, hit his head, and began seizing in the water. Crews began patient treatment at the waterline. The officer in charge of Paramedic Engine 507 upgraded the incident to a high angle rescue to add more resources and establish incident command.

The crew members of Rescue 506 established a cache of rope equipment (including a stokes basket, harnesses, rope hardware and software) and proceeded to the patient's location. A plan was formed to package the patient into the stokes basket and walk him up the embankment using a belay system. Crews executed the rope system by utilizing two separate low-angle systems referred to as a "one to one" through a multi-purpose device with four rescuers maintaining constant contact with the stokes basket.

UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

The patient was loaded into Medic 507 and transported to the landing zone where he was airlifted to a trauma center. The patient's family was contacted and informed of the patient's condition and transport destination.

During the incident, personnel operated in positions above their normal level. Initial command was established by a newly promoted Lieutenant and the rescue group supervisor was a Technician II. All crews worked together seamlessly to develop multiple operations to safely extricate the patient using the safest and most efficient plan.



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UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Paramedic Engine 516:

*Technician II Diana O'Donnell, Technician I Thomas Frasure,
Technician I Edward Allen*

Rescue 506:

*Lieutenant Dylan Moore, Technician II Austin Davis,
Technician II Cameron Malone, Technician I Samuel Ruwe*

Safety 502:

Lieutenant Sean Jones

Paramedic Engine 526:

*Technician II Tyler Barnikel, Technician I Stephen Mickle,
Technician I Andres Paz-Juarez*

Medic 526:

Technician II Ronald Pace, Technician I Matthew Kemery

Battalion 504:

Battalion Chief Carl "Lief" Ericson, Technician II Michael Militello

On May 10, 2024, Paramedic Engine 516 and Medic 516 were dispatched to an ALS injury call for a man pinned under a 15' tree. Based on the dispatch information, the officer of Paramedic Engine 516 added Rescue 506. Upon arrival at the dispatched address, Paramedic Engine 516 began to search the wooded area on foot, adding an additional engine to assist with searching for the patient. The patient was ultimately found 1,000' from the dispatched address lying on the muddy ground with his leg pinned between the trunks of two large trees.

The adult male patient was alert and oriented with shallow respirations but could communicate to the crew that he had been using a chainsaw to cut trees on the property when his right thigh became pinned between two of the trees. The patient was trapped under a 15' long tree that was 2' in diameter.

UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

Rescue 506 arrived on scene and began stabilizing the log for lifting while crews from Paramedic Engine 516 and Medic 526 obtained IV access and administered Fentanyl and Ketamine for pain management. Rescue 506 worked quickly under difficult conditions in the rain to stabilize the log with wedges and a picket system before lifting the log off the patient's leg. The patient was extricated and placed on a backboard and into a Stokes basket in preparation for removal from the wooded area. Crews worked together to maintain patient care while transferring the patient up the steep and muddy slope where Medic 526 was positioned. The coordination, communication, and specialized skill sets demonstrated by all personnel on scene resulted in the rapid extrication and transport of this patient resulting in a positive outcome.

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UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Truck 504:

*Lieutenant Mark Waldrop, Technician II Andrew Silvernale,
Technician II Carl Nunziata, Technician I Andy Gomez*

MEDIC 524:

*Technician II Beth Kenavan, Technician I Nathaniel Scanlon,
Technician I Brandon D'Sa*

ENGINE 524:

*Lieutenant Thomas Gregory, Technician I Robert Fry,
Technician II Joseph Gallagher*

Rescue 522:

*Lieutenant Scott Coloe, Technician II Dustin Kim,
Technician II Michael Shannon, Technician I John Pearson*

Safety 501:

Lieutenant Matthew Pullen, Lieutenant Christopher Clark

Batt 504:

Battalion Chief Carl "Lief" Ericson, BST Michael Militello

Ambo 504:

Technician II Kenneth Guiles, Technician I Jason Scott

On December 3rd at 14:01, units responded to an auto accident with entrapment near 17030 Thousand Oaks Dr. A fully loaded logging truck had overturned into a ditch, trapping the conscious driver inside with logs on top of the cab. Engine 524 was first on the scene and confirmed the situation. Battalion 504 took command, assigning R522's officer as Rescue Group Supervisor.

Crews prioritized removing the heavy, unstable logs. Using chains and grip pullers anchored to a tree, they successfully cleared them and safely secured them using pickets. The driver, experiencing hip and leg pain, was pinned under the steering wheel and dashboard.

UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

Two plans were executed simultaneously to free the driver's legs. One team attempted to cut the steering wheel while another wrapped the column with a chain to pull it off if cutting failed. Hydraulic spreaders and chains were ultimately used to remove it, freeing one leg.

This allowed Medic 524 to access the patient and provide ALS interventions for pain management. Crews then worked inside of the cab to push the dashboard off the driver's other leg using hydraulic rams to push the dash away and capture progress with ratchet straps and chains. Additional crews on the outside were cutting damaged pieces of the truck off as well. After multiple attempts, they successfully freed the driver's foot.

Once extricated, the driver was carefully lowered to the road using a stokes basket and rope system and transported via Medic 524 to a trauma center. The total extrication time was approximately 45 minutes.



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UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

AWARDEES

Rescue 522:

Lieutenant Danny Beck, Technician II Aaron Dillon, Technician II James Spengler, Technician II Thomas Hunt, Technician I Brian Zimmerman

Truck 504:

Lieutenant Adam Renner, Technician II Dustin Goding, Technician II Thomas "Whitt" Jacobs, Technician I Garrett Gloska

Engine 525:

Lieutenant Matt Eckert, Technician II Davi Ramos-Allen, Technician II Jeffrey McCoy, Technician I Cody Jewell

Medic 525:

Lieutenant Matthew Hall, Technician II Ryan Conway, Technician I Richard Wahl

On March 20th, 2024, units from the west end were dispatched to an auto accident with entrapment in the area of Devlin Road and University Blvd. Rescue 522 arrived on the scene to find a very large tree completely across the roadway and it had crushed the front end of the bus, pinning the driver by his legs. Rescue 522 and Truck 504 came up with an extrication plan which first included stabilizing the tree using struts and chain as Medic and Engine 525 began patient care. Engine 525 personnel also supported the extrication crews by gathering equipment and clearing space for everyone to work. Crews utilized hydraulic rams from inside of the bus to start pushing the dash and steering the wheel off the patient. Upon special request, Waggy's Towing arrived and personnel from Rescue 522 and Truck 504 coordinated the lift with the wrecker to provide some relief off the bus, ensuring it did not further harm the patient. It was a very delicate operation that was coordinated and calculated. The seat back of the driver's seat was disassembled as the last part of the extrication so the patient could be moved on to a backboard and out of the bus. The patient was transported to the hospital and expected to make a full recovery.

UNIT AWARD

Prince William County Fire Department

continued ...

This incident proved to be quite challenging since a tree weighing approximately 20,000lbs crushed the bus and spanned across the entire roadway. Without the assistance of Waggy's Towing, lifting nearly 20,000lbs the distance required would have been almost impossible. All crews worked tirelessly with multiple tasks happening simultaneously. Everything was coordinated between all crews involved, safely and efficiently, and there is no doubt that the hard work of everyone involved ensured the best possible outcome.

SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Fire and Rescue

AWARDEES

Battalion Chief Jonathon Moore, Lieutenant Daniel Beck, Lieutenant Ross Shannon, Lieutenant Michael Mishler, Technician II Julie Schwartz, Technician II Michael Shannon, Technician II James McCue

Prince William's Water Rescue Team deployed to Southwest Virginia to prepare for the impact of Hurricane Helene. The team was staged with 4 boats and 7 Rescue Personnel. On September 27th, the team was relocated to Damascus, VA. This area got over a foot of rain in just a few hours. The creeks on both sides of town had been diverted straight through the middle of the town.

The team was sent downtown to rescue 3 adults and 2 dogs that were trapped by flood waters in their home. The flood waters had already carried away other structures, fire apparatus and multiple cars. The residents were unable to self evacuate and one of the adults was elderly and could not walk without assistance. This house backed up to the waterway that had already washed away their neighbor's house off its foundation. Their house had been filled with 2 feet of water already. The team anchored ropes off a telephone pole on the main street and attached to an inflatable boat. 2 members got into the boat with life jackets and rescue equipment. They were lowered by rope systems, approximately 100ft, where they could make access to the house via the back deck. 2 elderly females were extracted from the home first.

A second operation of the system allowed them to rescue the remaining adult male and 2 dogs. Without the quick decision making of the team, and while operating with limited resources, they were able to rescue this family as conditions continued to worsen. All members put themselves directly in harm's way to rescue these residents who had no other options. The team continued to work for over 48 hours rescuing and evacuating 24 people and 2 dogs in total. No fatalities were reported in this area of Virginia.



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MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

First Sergeant Edward Petke, Jr., Master Police Officer John C. Walsh, Police Officer Monique E. Greer, Police Officer Luke T. Irvin, Police Officer Fernando R. Meitzler Cruz, Police Officer Joshua M. Rowe, Police Officer Robert M. Theimer, Police Officer Zara C. Tirrell

SILVER AWARD

AWARDEE

Police Officer Michael J. Butera

On December 5, 2024, Officer Butera was refueling his cruiser at the Central District Police Station. An employee of Fire & Rescue Station 26 notified Officer Butera that a subject appeared to be in a state of mental health crisis, holding a knife in his hands with visible blood on him. Officer Butera encountered the subject who was holding the knife. As Officer Butera approached him, the subject still had the knife displayed. Officer Butera retreated behind cover and gave verbal commands in an attempt to de-escalate the situation. The subject ignored all verbal commands to drop the knife and continued to advance towards Officer Butera. In order to protect his own life, Officer Butera was required to utilize deadly force by discharging his firearm at the subject and communicating his actions over the radio to notify incoming units and supervisors. Immediately after, Officer Butera began rendering life saving measures to the subject.

First Sergeant Petke arrived on-scene and began rendering life saving measures to the subject as well. Officers Rowe, Tirrell, Irvin, Metzler Cruz, Greer, and MPO Walsh were the next officers on-scene who then took over life saving measures on the subject allowing First Sergeant Petke to manage supervisory duties. First Sergeant Petke calmly and concisely assigned tasks and relayed all necessary information on the radio to dispatch and incoming officers.

MPO Walsh and Officers Rowe, Tirrell, Irvin, Meitzler Cruz, Greer, and Theimer worked together effortlessly. The officers relied on their "tactical emergency casualty care" training and needed no direction in applying the necessary medical supplies to perform life saving measures to the subject. Although the subject was later declared deceased, all the officers who took part in this highly emotional and stressful event remained professional and relied on their training and experience.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Sergeant Sean H. Weddel, Police Officer Mario A. Centeno, Police Officer Andrew B. Chance, Police Officer Tiffany V. Gomez Melendez, Police Officer Luke A. Henderson, Police Officer Joseph C. Keyser, Police Officer Leroy D. Myrie, and Police Officer David T. Staton

In 2024, an initiative was created within the Prince William County Police Department called Reactive Enforcement Against Criminal Trends (REACT). It consists of teams of officers assigned to combat crime trends with a combination of enforcement and community engagement. Within the eastern district, a group of neighborhoods surrounding Bel Air Road have historically sustained significant crime trends involving drug distribution, gun violence, and gang activity. Sergeant Sean Weddel and Officers Luke Henderson, Tiffany Gomez-Melendez, Mario Centeno, Andrew Chance, Joseph Keyser, David Staton, and Leroy Myrie were assigned to these neighborhoods to address the trends as the REACT East Team.

The team contacted representatives from each neighborhood and gathered information on their needs. They partnered with the Office of Community Safety to provide better access to County resources and participated in Back-to-School events which involved handing out backpacks and snow cones to families. The team then engaged in frequent patrols to identify and arrest those committing crimes that threatened the community safety. In October, there was a substantial increase in offenders, so the patrols became daily. This led to the arrest of numerous drug users in dire need of services. The team partnered with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to ensure these individuals received rehabilitative assistance in court.

Information was obtained both from the residents as well as the offenders that led to the identification of significant drug dealers within the neighborhoods. The team partnered with the Narcotics Unit which amounted to the arrest of three fentanyl dealers and multiple users. This caused multiple other dealers to leave the area and were later arrested by the team as well.

The REACT East Team's dedication to law enforcement and community partnership has led to substantially increasing the safety of multiple neighborhoods in which community members can live peacefully in Prince William County.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Police Officer John F. Bailey, Police Officer Hugh M. Moffitt, Police Officer Christopher W. Kelly, Police Officer Robert M. Theimer, Master Police Officer John C. Walsh, Sergeant Nicholas K. Waymire, and First Sergeant William J. Franks

The Prince William County Police Department's REACT team conducts targeted patrols involving known suspects due to a recent spike in motor vehicle thefts in the community. In October 2024, Sergeant Waymire and Officer Bailey were surveilling a known suspect in the K-section neighborhood of Dale City. They observed a hand-to-hand drug transaction by the suspect, that turned into an armed robbery within feet of the surveillance vehicle. Officer Bailey showed incredible poise and resistance while in his surveillance capacity, knowing if he took action, there was a likelihood the subject would escalate the situation. He was able to remain calm and clearly state his observations over the radio to the rest of his team.

While Sergeant Waymire and Officer Bailey maintained surveillance on the suspect residence, Officers Moffitt, Kelly, and Walsh were able to stop the victim and use their interview skills to establish a rapport with the victim to open up about the robbery. Due to the immediate threat of the subjects and firearms being involved, First Sergeant Franks organized an arrest team consisting of himself along with Officers Walsh, Theimer, Moffitt. While forming the arrest team, the surveillance team observed the suspects walking towards the arrest team's location. Communication between the two teams was essential because they were able to give exact updates on the location of the suspects, and they were taken into custody without incident.

Not only were these subjects arrested for the above charges, but they were also found in possession of keys from stolen vehicles. Numerous cases were closed due to the apprehension. All of the team members displayed quick thinking, teamwork, and communication. The apprehension of the suspects undoubtedly helped to enhance the quality of life for the community by removing dangerous individuals and firearms from the streets.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Police Officer Nicholas M. Wowak, Police Officer Leroy D. Myrie, Police Officer Kyle J. Kramer, Police Officer James S. Brent, and Master Police Officer Timothy J. Horn

On July 31, 2024, at approximately 2100 hours, Public Safety Communications received a call from an individual requesting officers to check the area for her father. The call was initially dispatched as a service request. Officer Wowak responded to the Candlewood Suites Hotel in Dumfries and found that the missing individual was a senior adult who suffers from dementia, had limited mobility, had no cellphone, and had been missing for twelve hours. Officer Wowak immediately recognized this to be a case of a missing endangered adult and began requesting additional resources to the area for a search.

The search immediately faced numerous difficulties. There was a significant time lapse between the last confirmed sighting of the missing individual and the report that he had gone missing. The area had hotels, highways, and large wooded areas that needed to be checked, and powerful thunderstorms were bearing down on the area. Chances of finding him appeared to be very low and between his health concerns and incoming weather, his survival prospects were low. Numerous officers, including Officer Myrie, Officer Kramer, Officer Brent and Master Police Officer Horn responded to the scene to assist with the search.

Together, they utilized their training and resources to conduct an extensive search. After four hours, Officer Wowak and Officer Kramer located the missing individual deep in a wooded area, seated in fast moving water up to his shoulders, suffering from exposure, and in an extremely weakened state. The officers immediately entered the water and worked with others to bring him to nearby medics, most probably saving his life.

MERIT AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Master Police Officer Aaron J. Lintz, Police Officer Spencer W. Heinz

On February 1, 2024, Master Police Officer Aaron Lintz was acting as a Field Training Officer for Officer-in-Training Spencer Heinz. While handling a separate call for service on Sinclair Mill Road, Public Safety Communications broadcasted a CPR call also on Sinclair Mill Road. MPO Lintz heard the broadcast and recognized they were in the vicinity. MPO Lintz and Officer Heinz quickly responded to the CPR call for service, and Officer Heinz immediately began life saving measures administering CPR. MPO Lintz retrieved a face mask and assisted Officer Heinz who was already administering CPR. MPO Lintz calmly provided clear and concise coaching to Officer Heinz who was able to provide high-quality CPR until Medics arrived on-scene. Officer Heinz provided approximately eight minutes of CPR to the patient who was ultimately revived during additional CPR in transit to the hospital. The patient was resuscitated due to the immediate intervention by the officers.

Medics on-scene stated that had it not been for the quick and proficient response of the officers, the patient would have likely died due to his sudden medical emergency.

Master Police Officer Lintz and Officer Heinz should be commended for their acute awareness and swift response to this medical emergency. Because of the officers' quick life-saving actions, the patient survived what would have otherwise would have likely been fatal. MPO Lintz and Officer Heinz acted above and beyond their assigned responsibilities and positively reflected the values of the department in their service to the community.

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first responders
for their service
& dedication.*



HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Detective Nicholas J. Colella, Detective Darien R. Cupka

On April 21, 2024, the Missing Persons Unit received a missing person report of a 22-year-old male. This individual had adopted a transient lifestyle as part of the unhoused community which created numerous obstacles for the investigation. The usual methods of locating missing subjects, such as tracking their electronic devices or through their use of social media, could not be used due to the missing subject not having a phone and using other people's devices to communicate.

During the following months, numerous interviews were conducted with individuals believed to know his whereabouts. On July 8, 2024, the case was reassigned to Detective Colella. Detective Colella learned of an individual who claimed the missing subject had been killed and was left in a homeless encampment. At this point, the case was elevated to a Missing Endangered Person.

On August 20, 2024, Detective Cupka from the Homicide Unit began to assist in a joint investigation. Additional searches were conducted in other homeless encampments along with the Occoquan Regional Park utilizing cadaver dog teams.

On October 30, 2024, the Missing Persons Unit along with Detective Cupka conducted a search of a homeless camp. This area was selected after information was gained by Detective Colella through listening to countless hours of jail phone recordings. During the search, one of the K9s alerted on an abandoned tent. The members of the search team observed skeletal human remains inside the tent which were collected and identified as the missing subject through dental record examination. Even though the result was not the desired outcome, the missing person was determined not to be the victim of a criminal event, and Detectives Colella and Cupka were able to provide closure for the family.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

continued ...

Upon the conclusion of the investigation, twelve individuals were apprehended, and thirty-seven charges were formally filed. Additionally, fourteen cases were resolved, and seventeen search warrants were executed. Several firearms, including stolen guns and machine guns, were recovered during the operation. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) participated in the investigation due to the involvement of stolen machine guns and devices known as “switches”, which are affixed to handguns to convert them into fully automatic firearms.

The dedication and attention to detail displayed by the individuals involved in this investigation were crucial in achieving a successful resolution. The case was complex and required a comprehensive approach, which included a thorough analysis of evidence, extensive interviews, and effective collaboration among various officers and detectives. Their ability to navigate these challenges and pursue the investigation with unwavering determination showcases their exceptional skills and deep commitment to law enforcement.



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HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

First Sergeant Jarrod G. Yost, Sergeant Brandon R. Hunt, Detective Darien R. Cupka, Detective Daniel R. Sekely, Detective Victor E. Cordero, Detective Nader G. Qura, Detective Chad A. Gourlay, and Detective Colleen E. Grantham

On March 21, 2024, an individual was reported missing by family members after not picking up her child from daycare. The following day, Intel Unit/Missing Persons detectives assumed the investigation. Through the investigation, it was learned that her ex-boyfriend has a violent history with domestic partners and was located driving her vehicle in the Newport News area. Her family stated that she would not have permitted him to drive the vehicle. All her personal belongings were still in her residence and her family stated that she would never miss a pickup of her child.

Violent Crimes detectives began a joint investigation with Intel Unit/Missing Persons detectives. As detectives were in the area of the victim's residence, they observed a trash truck which recently collected the trash from the community dumpster. Detectives Cordero and Qura were able to get the trash truck stopped and arranged to have it dumped in a secure location at the Prince William County Landfill. Forensics Services Section staff were contacted and responded to the landfill to conduct a search of the trash truck contents. The victim was located inside a suitcase during their search.

During a canvass of the neighborhood, a Ring video was located of the suspect pulling the suitcase from the apartment. Detectives quickly coordinated with the Newport News Police Department, which was able to take the suspect into custody within minutes. Detectives obtained a warrant for Second Degree Murder for the suspect. Detectives responded to Newport News and conducted an interview with the suspect where incriminating evidence was obtained.

The apprehension cannot change the outcome, but the family of the victim will now have some closure knowing justice for the victim will be served.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Detective Luke R. Lambdin, Detective Israel F. Perla, Detective Anthony P. Javid, Detective Eliann Rivera Diaz, Detective Ramon G. Alfaro, Detective David T. Clark, Detective Andrew W. Jackson, Sergeant Brian A. McCleese, First Sergeant Donanthony King, Police Officer Tyler K. Randall, Police Officer Anthony E. Gallegos, Police Officer Hugh M. Moffitt, Police Officer Jessica M. Lopez, Police Officer John F. Bailey, Police Officer Christopher W. Kelly, First Sergeant Joshua M. Grand, Police Officer Mario A. Centeno, Police Officer Andrew B. Chance, Police Officer Joseph C. Keyser, Police Officer Luke A. Henderson, Police Officer Jacob A. Kopfensteiner, Police Officer Leroy D. Myrie, Police Officer David T. Staton, Sergeant Sean H. Weddel, First Sergeant Alexander D. McMillan, Senior Public Safety Analyst Amy L. Corbin

Between June and October of 2023, residents of the Bixby Road community faced a troubling pattern of motor vehicle thefts. In multiple instances, vehicles were stolen and subsequently abandoned in various locations throughout the area. Recognizing the situation's urgency, detectives from the Property Crimes Unit and the specialized Motor Vehicle Theft group REACT East/Central launched a thorough investigation into these alarming incidents. This investigation was titled "Operation Joy Ride". During the investigation, multiple suspects were identified by surveillance, fingerprints, and canvassing areas. The use of the Crime Analysis Section was crucial in identifying hot spots and locations where other vehicles were being abandoned.

To enhance their investigative efforts, the team strategically deployed a surveillance vehicle and pole cameras and set up trail cameras at key locations known for auto thefts. This proactive approach aimed to capture critical footage that could provide insights into the perpetrators' methods and movements.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Detective Jaron J. Dalbeck, Detective Scott A. Seymour, and Detective Andres R. Sanz-Guerrero

On February 2, 2024, at 0207 hours, officers responded to the area of Brickwood Drive and Bronson Court for a report of shots fired. Upon arrival, officers located a female victim inside a vehicle suffering from multiple gunshot wounds to the head. The Prince William Department of Fire and Rescue arrived and pronounced the victim deceased. The Violent Crimes Unit responded and with only a vague description of two subjects fleeing the scene, Detectives Dalbeck, Seymour, and Sanz Guerrero began their investigation.

Detectives learned the victim was a North Carolina resident and was married to an inmate in a Virginia prison. Detectives traveled to North Carolina to execute a search warrant on the victim's address and interviewed neighbors. Detectives also traveled to Sussex State Prison, more than 100 miles away, and Red Onion State Prison, more than 400 miles away, to conduct interviews. Detectives coordinated with the Virginia Department of Corrections to schedule these interviews as well as cell searches of involved inmates.

During the investigation, Detectives conducted multiple interviews across the Commonwealth of Virginia and executed residential search warrants in two states. Ultimately, the investigation uncovered a plan formulated by inmates and acquaintances "on the outside". The plan was for the incarcerated husband to lure the victim to Prince William County under false pretenses and once she arrived at the predetermined location, she was shot and killed. The shooter(s) would be paid a large sum of money in exchange for the murder. Four suspects were identified and arrested for the following charges: four counts of aggravated murder/murder for hire, four counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, four counts of shooting into an occupied vehicle, four counts of conspiracy to commit a felony.

HILLARY ROBINETTE AWARD

Prince William County Police
Department, FBI, ATF, DEA, USPIS, EDVA, FBI

AWARDEES

Lieutenant Brandon N. Haas, First Sergeant Kenneth A. Jenkins, Detective Simon J. Chu, Detective Stephen M. Cieslinski, Detective Wayne A. Smith, Detective Joshua R. Lane, Special Agent Jamal Pride (FBI), Special Agent Michael Jordan (ATF), Special Agent Rob Henschel (DEA), Postal Inspector Sarah Bolger (USPIS), Assistant United States Attorney Chris Carter (EDVA) and Special Agent Joshua Pirtle (FBI)

From January 2023 to March 2024, members of the Prince William County Police Department's Special Investigations Bureau conducted a narcotics distribution investigation which spanned multiple states and uncovered an expansive narcotics distribution network. It was discovered individuals were distributing large quantities of fentanyl, cocaine, mushrooms, prescription, and other various narcotics throughout the United States and specifically into Prince William County and the National Capital Region.

In January 2023, Detectives Chu and Cieslinski partnered with the Prince William County Narcotics Task Force and Police Department's Street Crimes Unit, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Attorney's Office. A federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force grant was obtained for the case.

Throughout the investigation, approximately 19.3 kilograms of methamphetamine, 45,460 fentanyl pills (4.5 kilograms of fentanyl), and 856 grams of pure fentanyl powder were seized. It was later discovered the narcotics were being sourced from the Sinaloa cartel. As a result of the search and arrest warrants, the following items were seized: approximately 100 pounds of methamphetamine, 7 pounds of fentanyl powder, approximately 2,000 miscellaneous prescription pills, 200 fentanyl pills, 1 ounce of cocaine, 1 ounce of PCP, 1 ounce of black tar heroin, ½ pound of psilocybin mushrooms, 4 pounds of marijuana, 7 handguns (2 stolen), and over \$1,000,000 in assets (cash, jewelry, etc.)

Due to the magnitude and complexity of this case, the prosecution of the case continued well into 2024. The success of this case was due in large part to the selfless efforts and seamless cooperation of multiple local and federal agencies across the United States.

BRONZE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Master Police Officer John C. Walsh, Police Officer Timotheos A. Diamantis, Police Officer Jose L. Feliciano Martinez, Police Officer Jenna L. Hunter, and Police Officer Landan M. Kitis

On December 29, 2024, at 12:43 a.m., communications received a call for a shooting at a residence in Nokesville with over 150 people in attendance at a party. Another caller reported a 17-year-old male was shot in the leg with uncontrolled bleeding. Units arrived at a chaotic scene with over 50 cars trying to leave and others leaving on foot. Due to heavy rain, vehicles were stuck in the mud blocking the driveway, which was the only ingress location to the victim.

Officers Diamantis, Feliciano Martinez, Hunter, Kitis, and Master Police Officer Walsh approached the house, which was approximately two-tenths of a mile in the woods. Officer Feliciano Martinez quickly located the victim near the residence and began to provide aid, to include applying a tourniquet, with the assistance of MPO Walsh. Officer Diamantis did an excellent job gathering pertinent information from witnesses and learned the shooting happened inside the residence. He secured the area around the residence and directed additional units to his location.

Due to not having a clear suspect description, the scene was not safe for Fire and Rescue personnel to respond directly to the scene. With the driveway blocked, a cruiser could also not be brought up to transport the victim. Officers Feliciano Martinez, Hunter, Kitis, and MPO Walsh carried the victim two-tenths of a mile to the main roadway to awaiting rescue personnel.

While this was a full team effort from all officers to lock down the scene, provide aid, and interview and identify everyone remaining in attendance, these officers went above and beyond to ensure the victim received immediate care. It was no small feat to carry an injured victim that distance in rainy and muddy conditions, so he could be transported for medical attention, and later make a full recovery.

BRONZE AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Police Officer Sean W. Jones

Police Officer Taylor L. Craddock

On February 12, 2024, at 0637 hours, Officer Jones met with a reporting party who expressed concern for her daughter after an argument that morning. Following the dispute, the daughter fled from the school bus stop, and the mother feared she might attempt suicide if not found promptly. Officers initiated a thorough search of the area, while family members checked known locations.

The daughter was soon located by her sister approximately three miles from the initial scene, near the Stonebridge at Potomac Town Center. She was standing on the other side of a guardrail, preparing to jump from a bridge over fifty feet above the rocks below, a fall that could have resulted in severe injuries or death. Despite both officers employing their Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to engage her, she remained in a precarious position and declined their assistance.

Recognizing the imminent danger, Officers Craddock and Jones coordinated a tactical response. While Officer Craddock continued to engage the young woman in conversation, Officer Jones discreetly positioned himself over the guardrail, approaching her from behind. When the moment was right, he swiftly secured her in his arms and moved her to safety.

Following the rescue, both officers provided reassurance to the young woman, affirming their commitment to ensuring she received the necessary support and care.

Officers Jones and Craddock demonstrated exceptional bravery, sound judgment, and quick action under pressure. Their professionalism and commitment to public safety in a life-threatening situation make them highly deserving of a Valor Award.

SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Police Department, Fairfax County Police Department

AWARDEES

Police Officer Kristine D. White, Police Officer Jason R. Williams, Master Police Officer Garrett L. Gourlay, Police Officer Brian Carter (Fairfax County Police Department)

On September 6, 2024, at 1940 hours, Officer White and Officer Williams responded to a suspicious person on the train bridge above the Occoquan River next to Route 1 Highway. They located a person in crisis standing on the narrow bridge, which consisted of railroad ties and a narrow walkway at least 70 feet above the water. Utilizing Crisis Intervention Training, the officers established rapport with the individual as additional resources arrived on-scene. While speaking with the individual, the officers had to avoid a train moving at high speed across the bridge and continued to discourage the individual from attempting self-harm.

Officer Gourlay and Officer Carter arrived on-scene, and together the officers were able to convince the individual to step away from the edge of the bridge. When the officers took the individual into custody for mental health treatment, the individual began struggling with all four officers. This put the officers in an even more precarious position and exposed them to further danger during the handcuffing and removal of the individual from the bridge. Throughout the incident, the officers were exposed to the dangers of high-speed train crossings, unsure footing, and dangerous heights. Despite these dangers, the officers were able to convince the individual to step away from the edge of the bridge and take him into custody so that he could be provided with mental health treatment.

SILVER AWARD

Prince William County Police Department

AWARDEES

Police Officer James K. Bocompani, Police Officer Ethan M. Hughart, and Police Officer Nicholas J. Brown

On February 13, 2024, the Public Safety Communications center received numerous 911 calls originating from the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee school in Manassas. Panicked callers stated a male subject was armed with knives and had stabbed two students. All on-duty officers responded to the incident with Officers Bocompani, Hughart and Brown being the first officers to arrive on-scene.

As Officer Hughart ran toward the building, he saw a crowd surrounding someone who appeared injured lying on the ground. Witnesses yelled to the officers that the armed suspect was still inside the building. Officers Hughart, Bocompani and Brown continued towards the building. Before Officer Hughart opened the door, he saw through the glass an aggressively-postured male with a kitchen-style knife walking toward the door. The three officers issued multiple commands to, "Drop the knife!" The suspect ignored the officers and continued to advance toward them with a bellicose posture, leaving no time for the officers to deescalate. Officer Hughart quickly assessed his surroundings and fired multiple rounds at the suspect. Officer Bocompani also assessed and fired toward the advancing suspect who fell to the ground.

Officers Hughart, Bocompani, Brown, and two more officers secured the suspect. Other responding officers on-scene took over and began rendering aid to the suspect. Officers Hughart, Bocompani, Brown entered the building along with other officers and together rendered aid to the stabbed victim in the classroom until they were relieved by members of the Department of Fire and Rescue.

Despite the efforts of officers and emergency medical technicians, victim #2 died that evening from the injuries incurred by the violent stabbing he endured. Remarkably, victim #1 survived, in part due to the aid rendered by officers that day. The lives of numerous other people were likely saved that day by the heroic response of Officers Hughart, Bocompani and Brown.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Prince William County Department of Public Safety
Communications

AWARDEES

Assistant Directors:

Jared Juliano, Tracy Zingg

Managers:

Lyssa Krisner, Nita Lapihuska, Justin LeValley, Sarah Sims

Supervisors:

Christina Bernhardt, Kesha Beckley, Michelle Fridley, Shannon Marion, Kaytlyn Humphries

Telecommunicators:

TCI Afnan Abdelhafez, TCII Altheia Adusei, TCIII Mea Arney, TCI Dawn Barb, TCII James Bruning, TCIII Karen Cardwell, Fiscal Specialist/TCIII Elena Carver, TCI Jenna Chappell, TCIII Melissa Clore, TCI Sarah Dalton, TCI Michaela Dodson, TCII Katherine Drumm, TCII Exavier Febus, TCIII Laura Finnerin, TCII Telma Imaca, TCII Karen Lackey, TCII Leman Jessel Sandoval, TCI Kyeisha Johnson, TCI Bailey Keness, TCI Maria Martinez, TCIII Aisha Sees, TCIII Andrea Watt, TCIII Shannon Woods



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Sat: 10:00am - 7:30pm
Sun: 11:00am - 4:00pm

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Prince William County Department of Public Safety
Communications

At 0820hrs on March 20th, 2024, the National Weather Service had broadcasted a Red Flag Warning for fire conditons that we received via PWC Emergency Management. This stated that due to the low humidity, dry conditions, and high winds that the probability of rapid spreading fire was going to be likely. At 0825hrs, the on-duty Division Chief called in to place fire radio in "Class 4 Status", meaning a larger scaled response for brush fires. Also worth mentioning, the operations center building experienced troubles with the electrical system, affecting the generator and air handler. With redundancy plans in place, radio and phone operations remained fluid and uninterrupted.

Notifications were made by the Tech Team, and Buildings and Grounds representatives were onscene quickly to remedy the situation. During this time, a total of 203 FD calls were dispatched; 30 outside fires, 11 brush fires, 3 structure fires, 2 vehicle accidents related to trees down (one of these included a tree on a school bus with entrapment for the driver), and 2 hazards related to large limbs down and trees down. A total of 1074 calls were inbound to the Center, 497 being on 911. This includes an unprecedented 5 additional fire radio channels that were being worked simultaneously in the afternoon.

On this Class 4 Fire Day, it took a village! The staff that responded in on their day off, came out from other assignments within the Center, came in early, and those that were already seated were the epitome of grit and grace in crisis mode. Together, with outside agencies, (NOVEC, Dominion, Department of Forestry, PWC Public Works, PWC Police Dept, and PWC Fire Rescue System), we were able to unite as one to preserve life and property for the community we serve.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Prince William County Department of Public Safety
Communications
AWARDEES

A Squad Supervisors:

Michelle Fridley, Josibeth Rubio Gonzalez, Karina Parada, Scott Karhan

Police Dispatchers:

TCIII Andrea Watt - West radio, TCIII Bridget Dormstetter - Central radio, TCIII Stephanie Drumm - East Radio, TCIII Telma Imaca - Admin Radio

Fire Dispatchers:

TCII James Bruning, TCII Leman Jessel, TCII Tina Adusei

Calltakers:

TCIII Sarah Moore, TCI Afnan Abdelhafez, TCI Julisa Aburto, TCI Dawn Barb, TCI Jenna Chappell, TCI Colleen Colgan, TCI Ebony Delauter, TCI Bailey Keness, TCI Maria Martinez, TCI Janaya Wilson.

Tech Team:

Tech Team Manager Justin LeValley, Supervisor Shannon Marion, TCIII Sarah Tama

Assistant Directors:

Assistant Director, Operations Tracy Zingg and Assistant Director, Systems Jared Juliano

Additional floor Assistance:

Teletype Warrants Unit Manager Randy Greenwalt, PWC Motorola, onsite CAD/GIS System Manager Lauren Lawlor

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Prince William County Department of Public Safety
Communications

On July 8, 2024, around 1408, call-takers TCI Abdelhafez and TCIII Moore were the first to receive two of the many calls from citizens reporting people shooting from the food court at Manassas Mall. An “Active Violence” call dispatched on police West and Fire and Rescue radios. Supervisor Parada halted her assignment and quickly logged in to assist with filtering through the multiple comments that were coming in as well as scribing the radio traffic of approximately 45-50 responding police officers. Each call-taker worked diligently to obtain as much information as possible regarding any victim(s) and suspect(s) descriptions and locations. TCIII Watt handled the West radio channel with such calm and professional demeanor during this high-stress event, which truly helped set the tone on how the responding officers would eventually handle the incident. TCIII Watt and Supervisor Parada tagged teamed, ensuring pertinent information was being relayed to the officers, showing the epitome of teamwork. The other police radio dispatchers assisted in also skimming through the comments and helping where they could while maintaining full control of their radio channels. Supervisor Rubio Gonzalez couldn’t have made all the notifications and relays by herself without the tremendous help from the members from our other teams, Manager LeValley, Supervisor Marion, CAD/GIS Lawlor, Manager Greenwalt, Assistant Directors Zingg and Juliano. Each played a huge role in assisting so that important steps were not missed.

The fire dispatch team of Fire Supervisor Karhan, Supervisor Fridley, TCII Bruning on F1, TCII Jessel on F2, and TCII Adusei on F3, all worked together to make sure F&R units staged until scene was secured by police. In addition, the Tech Team was running a CAD update and going live with brand new changes to our EMD protocols, which showed the perseverance and adaptability DPSC personnel continue to demonstrate.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Prince William County Department of Public Safety
Communications

AWARDEES

TCI Curtia Banks, TCIII Amber Bell, Supervisor Jennifer Berensen, Supervisor Christina Bernhardt, TCIII Katrina Clay, TCIII Melissa Clore, Supervisor Mesheka Cunningham, TCI Nicole Didier, Manager Randy Greenwalt, TCI Christopher Imaca, AD Jared Juliano, TCI Bailey Keness, TCII Karen Lackey, Supervisor Larissa Lemonnier, TCIII Nicole Mauro, Supervisor Katherine McIlvoy, Manager Sarah Sims, Manager Deja Snyder, TCII Kylie Stames, TCIII Shannon Woods, AD Tracy Zingg, Manager Lyssa Krisner, Technician II Jeremiah Kerlin, Technician II Josh Jones

On February 13, 2024, D Squad had an active violence incident with a double stabbing and officer-involved shooting/Signal1. The first call for a stabbing in progress was received at 15:23:08 by TCI Keness. While the scene was chaotic and confusing, she remained professional and focused. Several additional calls were received around the same time, all of them as hectic and confusing.

TCIII Clore, the west police dispatcher, demonstrated a textbook example of a police-toned call, announcing a Signal 1 when units advised shots fired. She continued to keep track of numerous operational, administrative and command units, detectives, and other units that had been called out, while continuing to handle the other calls occurring on her channel. Additionally, the police dispatchers; Supervisor Bernhardt on Admin, TCIII Woods on Central, TCIII Mauro on East, with TCIII Clay as radio relief, assisted.

Once the Signal 1 was called, multiple staff members working in non-operational positions came out to the floor to assist. They include Managers Snyder, Greenwalt, and Sims, Supervisor Cunningham, and Assistant Directors Juliano and Zingg.

TCIV Kaytie McIlvoy, returning from training, continued sending updated pages, monitoring the fire radio and calling for a helicopter. In addition, Supervisor Berensen came into work early to assist, making the incident transition from D squad to C squad, smoother.

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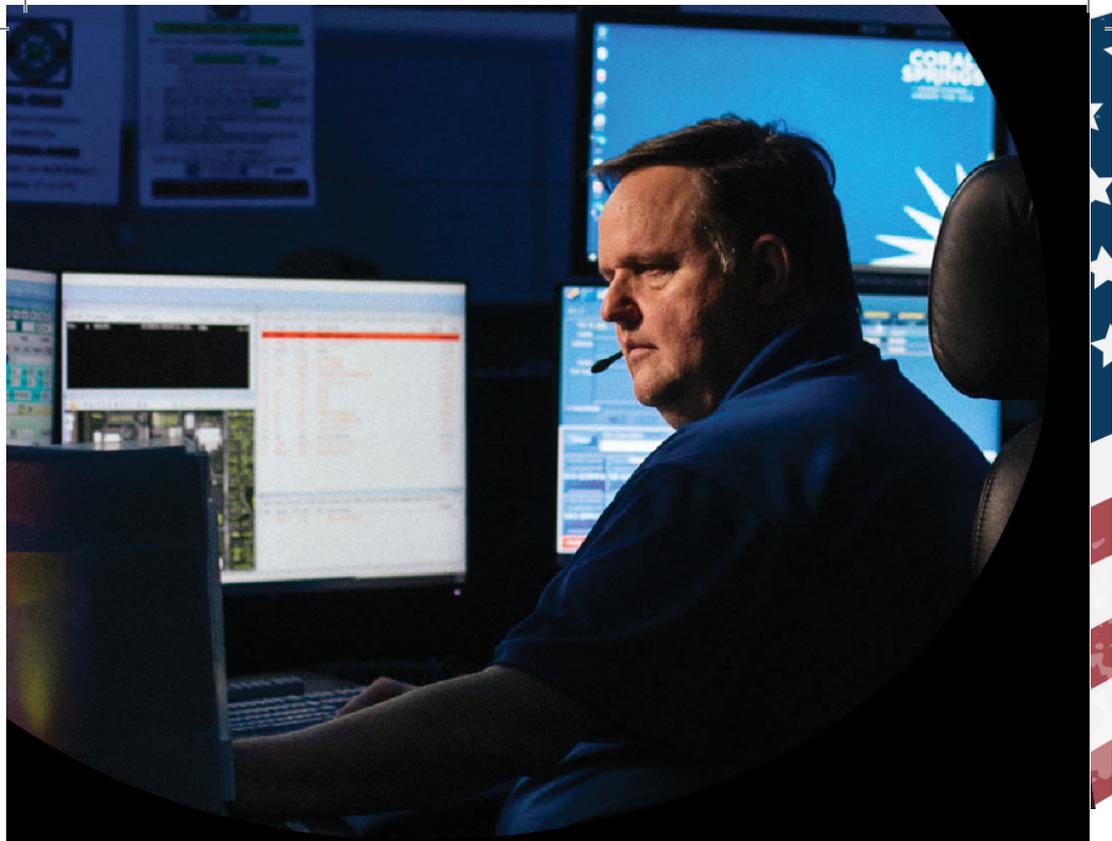
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Today we honor and recognize all first responders in the Prince William County region for their courage and dedication to our community and extend our sincere gratitude to our honorees.