



## **Northamptonshire officer scoops Eastern regional Police Bravery award**

09.07.10

An heroic officer from Northamptonshire has tonight received the Eastern regional award for her brave actions at the 15th annual Police Bravery Awards in London, organised by the Police Federation of England and Wales and The Sun Newspaper.

The award was received at a glittering ceremony at The Dorchester Hotel which followed a reception at 10 Downing Street where the officer along with the 57 other nominees, met the Prime Minister, David Cameron and Home Secretary, Theresa May.

Probationary officer PC Paula Rutherford was out on single patrol in a marked car when she spotted a suspicious looking man who seemed extremely preoccupied and appeared to be trying to hide an object behind his leg.

PC Rutherford pulled over and got out of the car to speak to the man. As she approached him, she saw the item the man was carrying was in fact a long barrelled gun. She also recognised him as a man who had recently been involved in a violent struggle with police officers and it had taken a number of them to arrest him. PC Rutherford also spotted he was holding a pistol in his other hand.

As the officer approached the suspect he raised both weapons at her. Given the amount of people in the general vicinity, PC Rutherford had to quickly assess the danger and think of the safest course of action. She shouted at the man to throw down his weapons as she produced her parva spray. Despite the imminent danger the officer calmly and concisely called for assistance on her radio and provided all the required information to the control room.

With no time to lose, and before back up arrived, PC Rutherford managed to tackle the man, handcuff him and place the weapons safely in her car.

Paul McKeever, chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales says:

“PC Rutherford deserves the highest praise for her incredible strength, bravery and courage tackling an armed and dangerous man whilst only 20

months in service. We hope this award goes some way towards recognising her heroic actions.”

Editor of The Sun Newspaper Dominic Mohan says:

“PC Rutherford showed tremendous courage for a probationary officer. Acting alone, she was faced with a terrifying situation but her calm actions meant members of the public were protected from a violent criminal. PC Rutherford deserves the highest praise for her bravery and we are delighted to present this award in recognition of her actions.”

ENDS