

Bravery

The Police Federation's Police Bravery Awards, in association with *The Sun*, recognise the work of police officers who carry out courageous acts every day. Tina Orr Munro highlights the stories behind some of the nominees in the second of a series leading up to the award ceremony, to be held at The Dorchester Hotel in London on July 12

Officer pursues sword slashing man threatening children

A samurai-wielding man threatening to slash children was tackled by an officer from Sussex Police who showed dogged determination in pursuing him.

PC Chris Thompson was called out to the horrifying scene after distressed calls from the public reporting that a man was on the rampage, threatening people, including children, with a two-foot long samurai sword in the Brighton area.

When the lone officer spotted the man and stopped his car, the offender immediately pointed the sword in his direction and circled the car, before eventually leaving and continuing down the street.

PC Thompson then leapt from the car and challenged him, using pepper spray to try to disable him. When the spray failed to subdue him, the offender then made slicing motions towards the officer who had to dive out of the way.

Despite the danger he faced, PC Thompson pursued the man for quarter of a mile, continually asking him to drop the weapon, which resulted in the offender repeatedly slashing the sword at the officer.

The pursuit only came to an end when the man had to cross the busy main London Road in Brighton and tripped on some bin bags when PC Thompson seized the opportunity to tackle, disarm, and handcuff him during a violent struggle before managing to handcuff him.

Ch Insp Neville Kemp, from Sussex Police, said that there would normally be more than one officer involved in this kind of incident.

He added: "If an officer does find himself at the scene on his own we do expect him to act to protect

the public and that is exactly what Chris did. I am very proud."

Brian Stockham, chairman of Sussex Police Federation, said: "Christopher Thompson's actions epitomise the courage of the lone police officer patrolling who has to make judgements without reference to anyone. His actions typify the commitment of our officers to protect the public."

The 29-year-old man was deemed incapable of answering criminal charges and sectioned under the Mental Health Act. He spent time in hospital and is suffering psychotic episodes. He is now back in the care of the community.



Officer used body weight to save driver in car perched on 40-foot drop

An officer from Avon & Somerset Constabulary put his life on the line as he used his own body weight to prevent a car plunging over the edge of a precipice.

PC Terence Phillips was on his way to work when he came across a Citroen Saxo which had crashed through a central reservation and ended up dangling precariously over a 40-foot sheer drop.

Without a thought for his own safety, the 42-year-old officer clambered into the back of the car and used his own weight to try and prevent it tipping over.

An off-duty fire officer who happened to be passing helped by holding onto the rear of the car as PC Phillips got in.

As the car continued to teeter on the edge, the officer gave first aid to the driver who had been thrown to the back of the car and knocked unconscious.

But then the driver began to stir and move around causing the car to rock which threatened to send them both careering down the embankment.

PC Phillips said: "The driver had been thrown to the back of the car on the passenger side and was obviously in pain. I jumped in and held his neck to prevent further injuries. All I could see was the ground below me and every time a lorry went by the car rocked. I told him if he didn't stay still the chances would be that we wouldn't get out alive."

The road was closed to rush hour traffic for more than an hour as firefighters, police and paramedics battled to rescue the driver and stabilise the car.

Fire officer Steve Harris said: "When he got in, the car moved so I held on to it. It seemed like ages until the fire engines arrived but I am sure it wasn't long. This guy deserves top marks."



Photography: Shutterstock

Nominees from the second group of three regions:

Region 4 (Eastern)

Derbyshire

PC Christopher Raine-Ellerker

Leicestershire

PC Mark Yeoman
PC Antony Fairclough

Norfolk

DC Michael Roxby

Nottinghamshire

PC Rachael Bown
PC Martin Foster

Suffolk

PC Jason Rice
PC Samuel Gilkes

Region 5 (South East)

Essex

PC Richard Mould

Hampshire

Sgt (acting) David Maidment
PC Antony Waghorn

Sussex

PC Christopher Thompson

Thames Valley

PC John Bulman
PC Conrad Lee

Region 6 (South West)

Avon and Somerset

PC Terence Phillips

Devon and Cornwall

PC Paul Jeffrey
PC Michael Ellis

Dorset

PC Adam Choules

Gloucestershire

PC Alan Poole