



Bravery

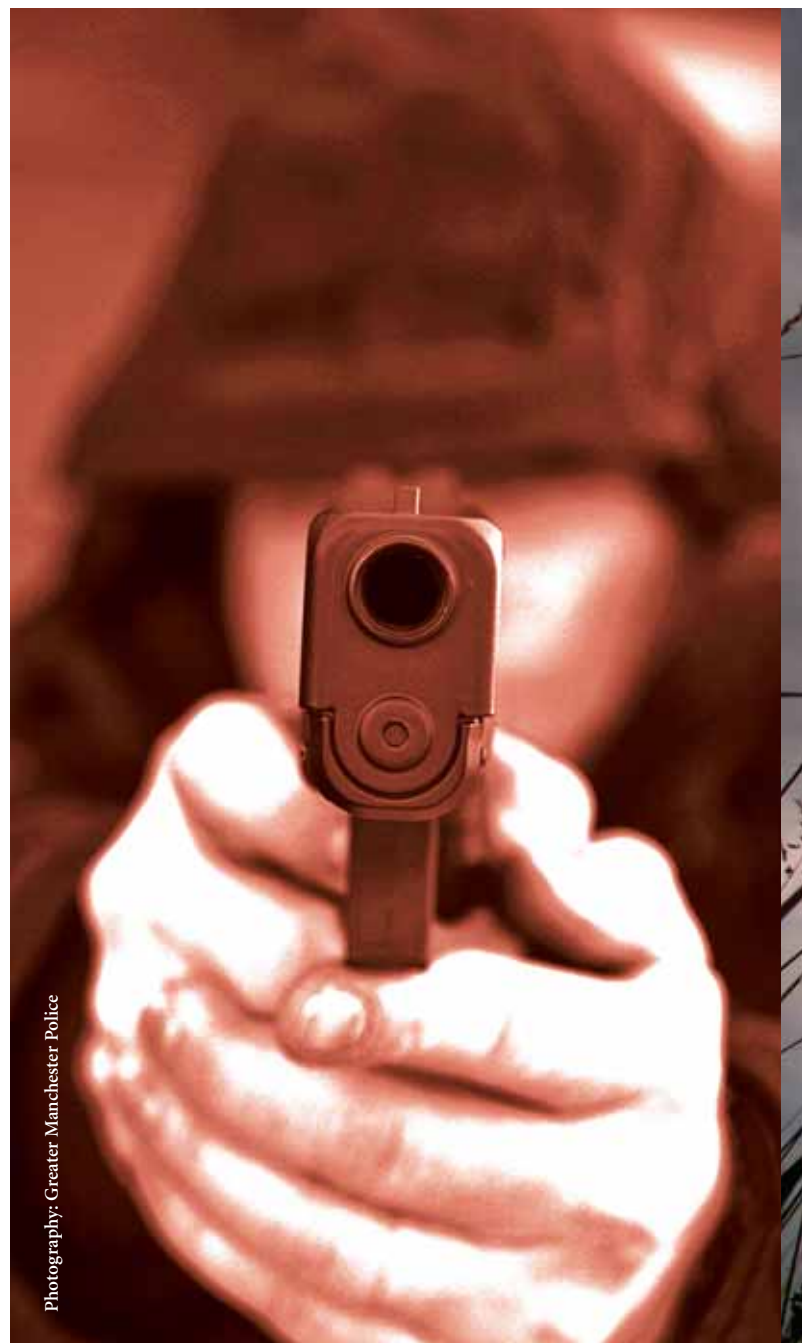
The Police Federation's Police Bravery Awards, in association with *The Sun*, recognise the work of police officers who carry out courageous acts every day. Tina Orr Munro highlights the stories behind some of the nominees as the award ceremony is due to be held at The Dorchester Hotel in London this month

Injured officer arrests gunman

Three unarmed Met officers displayed bravery and persistence when faced with three men, one of whom had shot and wounded an officer.

PC Paul Bennett and PC Mark Guppy were on routine patrol in Peckham in an unmarked police car when they spotted a Peugeot being driven erratically.

The officers followed the car and its three occupants and a pursuit developed until the driver collided with a kerb and the car came to a halt.



Photography: Greater Manchester Police

Two of the occupants tried to escape on foot, but, as the officers chased one of the suspects, he pulled a gun out of his jacket and shot father-of-two PC Bennett in the leg.

Despite his injuries, the officer managed to press his emergency button, return to the suspect's abandoned vehicle, arrest the third occupant who remained in the car, and preserve the car for evidence.

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Fully aware that he was now dealing with armed men who had already shot his colleague, PC Guppy continued the chase and was joined by PC Richard Hall.

They arrested both gunmen, and it was later discovered one of them had a converted handgun that had jammed, preventing him from shooting the officers.

The suspect was arrested by officers at the scene in Peckham, South London and was found guilty of grievous bodily harm with intent and a number of firearms offences.



Patrick Pleun/dpa/Corbis

Officers subdue a scythe-wielding man who slaughtered a police dog

Officers managed to restrain a schizophrenic man after he went on the rampage ramming a tractor armed with a spike into police vehicles and killing a police dog with a scythe.

Three officers from Dyfed Powys were called to a farm in Carmarthenshire in September 2006 to speak to a man suffering from a mental illness who had assaulted his father in a car park in a nearby town earlier in the day.

The man's mental state had deteriorated and he believed officers were trying to poison him. When he spotted officers approaching, he leapt on to a tractor with a spike attached to the front and charged at them, ramming their vehicles as they fled.

The officers managed to flag down a passing motorist who helped them escape. The man then continued to overturn two police cars and move them to the end of the driveway, barricading himself into his property.

A force helicopter called to the scene witnessed the offender attacking the overturned police vehicles with his tractor. An armed response unit was originally called, but was later stood down. The police helicopter was also forced to return to base as fuel ran low.

The decision was taken to send officers back to the farm to track down the offender. Six unarmed officers including two dog handlers returned to the farm under the cover of darkness. With no immediate sign of the offender, the officers disabled his farm machinery by deflating his tyres to prevent him attacking them or members of the public. Nearby residents were also evacuated as officers searched the premises.

Unable to find the man, the officers cut the electricity to the milking shed in a bid to flush him out.

He emerged brandishing a three-foot scythe which he used to stab and fatally wound Bryn, a police dog, sent in to subdue him. He then attacked PC Davies who dodged the scythe and sprayed him with CS spray.

The officer hit the offender, later diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic, with his baton as his two colleagues, Sgt Evans and PC Williams, restrained and arrested him.

Unfortunately, Bryn died shortly later, the first police dog killed in action in the Dyfed Powys force. Officers believe his actions saved them from being seriously injured.

PC Andy Edwards, PC Mike Calas, Sgt Lyn Evans, PC Ian Davies, PC Adam Hearne and PC Simon Williams are all nominated for their bravery.