

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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BACKGROUND ON 2009 NAPO TOP COP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Arizona - Phoenix Police Department

- **Fabian Gonzalez, Police Officer**

Case: Officer Gonzalez is being honored for his courage in stopping an armed offender while he was off duty and without bullet-proof gear. On April 27, 2008, a man started shooting at a crowd at a movie theater parking lot while using the mall security guard as a shield. After an unsuccessful attempt to get the man to drop the gun, Officer Gonzalez shot the offender, freeing the security guard and preventing any harm to civilians.

California - Los Angeles Police Department

- **Richard Alba, Police Officer**
- **Michael Barker, Police Officer**
- **Charles Buttitta, Sergeant**
- **Thomas Chinappi, Police Officer**
- **Floyd Curry, Police Officer**
- **Douglas Dingman, Police Officer**
- **German Hurtado, Police Officer**
- **Mark Nee, Police Officer**
- **Michael Odle, Police Officer**
- **George Ryan III, Police Officer**
- **Anthony Samuelson, Police Officer**
- **Daniel Sanchez, Police Officer**
- **Stephen Scallon, Police Officer**
- **James Veenstra, Police Officer**
- **David Keortge, Police Officer**

Case: The 14 Los Angeles Police Department officers are being honored for their bravery and teamwork in a dangerous standoff with an assailant responsible for four deaths. On Feb 7, 2008, the L.A.P.D. responded to report that a distressed man killed his family, was suicidal, and had hostages. When the SWAT team arrived at the residence and initiated a forced entry, the man opened fire, hitting two officers - one of them fatally.

As this ensued, officers provided sniper cover from the roof, which enabled the offender's wife to safely flee the hostage situation. At this point, the suspect fired upon the officers who were forced to take him down.

Florida - Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

- **William Badala, Deputy Sheriff**

Case: Deputy Badala is being honored for his tactical and reactive skills and brave, quick action when responding to a routine unwanted guest call that unexpectedly turned to a dangerous exchange of fire. On October 22, 2008, a Palm Beach resident who had been denied access to his vehicle by a tow truck operator, violently attacked workers in tow shop.

By the time Deputy William Badala arrived on the scene, the offender had fired shots with an assault rifle, striking two workers. The angry customer returned to his SUV, as Deputy Badala approached. The customer then retrieved a loaded AK-47 from his car and aimed it at the Deputy. After an extended shooting match, Deputy Badala shot down the suspect.

Georgia - Tifton Police Department

- **Dorminey McCrae, Police Officer**

Case: Officer McCrae is being honored for swift and decisive actions that brought an end to a dangerous situation where no one but the perpetrator was harmed. On April 7, 2008, Officer McCrae was dispatched to a retail store where a man held a 16 year-old female hostage at gunpoint. Officer McCrae slipped into the store unnoticed and transmitted information over radio without being detected. As the suspect attempted to escape, police officers arrived and blocked all exits. Officer McCrae took careful aim and disabled him with a high risk shot, saving the young hostage.

Idaho - Boise Police Department

...just given back to the other car...
Both vehicles involved in the collision were perched at the edge of a 40-foot drop-off. Struggling to get out of the car, the occupants shifted their weight and caused the vehicle to tip toward the edge of the drop-off. Officer Freas pulled aside and rushed to the scene. He applied his full weight to steady the SUV while he helped them out of the vehicle. He then proceeded to rescue the other car's occupants. Due to the Officer's swift and bold actions, there were no fatalities or life-threatening injuries.

International - Drug Enforcement Administration

- **John Archer, Special Agent**
- **William Brown, Special Agent.**
- **Paul Craine, Assistant Special Agent in Charge**
- **Brian Dodd, Supervisory Special Agent**
- **Louis Milione, Supervisory Special Agent**
- **Nicholas Nargi, Assistant Special Agent in Charge**
- **James Soiles, Assistant Special Agent in Charge**

Case: The seven special agents are being honored for bringing a renowned terrorist to justice. This group of Special Agents planned a five year undercover operation to bring down Monzer Al Kassar, a man responsible for supplying the weapons that were used in the 1985 Achille Lauro high-jacking. The special agents infiltrated Kassar's circle of associates by posing as representatives of the Colombian drug trafficking group, the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC). As FARC members, they pretended to seek modern-day weapons. The team recorded hours of these negotiations. Kassar was then tricked into believing he was meeting with a high level FARC commander and was arrested in Spain on U.S. charges. In addition, two of his associates were arrested in Romania where they had traveled to receive what they believed was payment for weapons. On November 20, 2008, the US jury convicted these terrorists on multiple terrorism charges.

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