

# OFFICER CHRIS LEWIS



The Purple Heart is awarded to employees injured in the performance of their duties to such a degree that they require hospitalization or immediate care from a physician. The injury must be of a serious nature capable of causing death or extended disability.



On October 6th, 1997, Officer Chris Lewis responded to an involuntary committal of a mental subject.

While waiting for backup officers, Officer Lewis was attacked with no provocation or warning. The suspect stabbed Lewis in the back and cut him from the arm pit to the top half of his arm nearly severing the triceps muscle. Lewis fought off his attacker, took him into custody and controlled him until backup could arrive. At the hospital it took medical staff 65 stitches to close the wound. He had lost a considerable amount of blood as well. He was kept in the hospital over night and was out of work for two months. His rehabilitation was immobilization for a month and later intensive physical therapy.

He was back to work in a sling on light duty for a month then returned to the street. At that time, he continued therapy on his own. Long term effects of the injury are no feeling in the left triceps, loss of strength, sharp shooting pains during weather changes and severe pain at different positions of the arm.

Officer Lewis was chosen for this award due to his sacrifice, courage and professionalism that he displayed.

