

INTERMODAL SHOOTING



The Silver Star is awarded to employees who have displayed courageous actions above and beyond that normally expected. These acts of courage do not rise to the level of the voluntary risk of life requirements for the Medal of Valor, but are displays of exemplary acts of bravery.

In the early morning hours of January 7, 2002, Officer Chris Lewis was fired upon by two subjects when he made a traffic stop on the stolen vehicle they were driving. These 14 officers responded immediately, knowing that the suspects had shown their willingness to fire upon police officers. After the vehicle crashed at First & Division, the suspects fled on foot towards the Intermodal Station; one suspect firing a high-powered rifle at officers as he ran. The suspects split up and the other suspect's gun, a 9mm semi-auto, was later found in the stolen vehicle.

The following enumerates the officers actions:

- Officer Aaron Ames responded to the area of the Intermodal and was confronted by the armed suspect very early in the situation. As the suspect began to leave the area, Officer Ames continued to follow and shots were fired at him. He took cover and was able to give good directions as to the suspect's movements. He teamed up with several other officers and continued to pursue the suspect until his arrest.
- Officers Brian Eckersley, Dustin Howe, Keith Cler, and Gene Baldwin responded to the area of the Intermodal and had to climb over a barbed wire fence to assist in the arrest of the armed suspect. While they were closing on the area where the suspect was, several shots were fired. They contacted Officer Ames and continued to pursue the suspect until his arrest. During this time, the suspect fired numerous shots.
- Corporal Phil Lasswell responded to the Intermodal and searched for the armed suspect while shots were being fired. He engaged the suspect firing three rounds.
- Sergeant Dan Torok and Officers Jason Uberuaga, Alan Edwards and Kevin Vaughn got in the same car and responded to the area of the Intermodal. While en route, several shots were fired at their vehicle, striking it. They exited the vehicle and continued to move forward, attempting to engage the suspect, with Sergeant Torok firing his shotgun.
- Officer Mel Taylor responded to the area and actively searched for the armed suspect while shots were being fired in the area.

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- Officer John Stanley responded to the area of the Intermodal and was searching for the armed suspect when rounds were fired at his vehicle. He was able to move to a safe area where he exited his vehicle and continued to search for the suspect.
- Officer Shawn Kendall responded and armed himself with an MP-5 rifle and actively searched for the suspect while shots were being fired.
- Officer Dan Waters responded and armed himself with an AR-15 rifle and actively searched for the suspect while shots were being fired.

All of these officers responded to the call for help by a fellow officer. They entered an area of great danger and actively searched for an armed suspect who was firing a rifle at officers in the area. They responded where considerable threat to their safety was present and the department is proud to recognize them with the Silver Star.

Sergeant Dan Torok, Corporal Phil Lasswell, Officer Mel Taylor, Officer Shawn Kendall, Officer Keith Cler, Officer Alan Edwards, Officer Kevin Vaughn, Officer Gene Baldwin, Officer Jason Uberuaga, Officer Aaron Ames, Officer Brian Eckersley, Officer Dustin Howe, Officer John Stanley and Officer Dan Waters were issued the Silver Star Bar, to be worn on their uniforms. They were also awarded their Silver Star Medal at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2003.

