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## Honours and Awards

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1

16 January 2007

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The Queen's Gallantry Medal and for the publication in *The London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery.

#### The Queen's Gallantry Medal

Michael GROVES. Security and Safety Officer, Seabourn Cruise Lines.

#### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Som Bahadur GURUNG. Gurkha Master-at-Arms, Seabourn Cruise Lines.

*For their actions repelling pirates who attacked a cruise ship which was cruising off the coast of Somalia.*

In November 2005 Michael Groves was woken, shortly before 0600 hours, and called to the deck to investigate two boats which were approaching the ship. He was unarmed. He saw that one boat carried six to seven males armed with rifles and a rocket launcher. He was immediately fired upon but he quickly unwound a high pressure hose and stood in full view of the attackers, aimed the jet at them and they withdrew. In the short respite that followed Mr Groves started to make ready

the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD). As he pulled off its cover he came under fire from the second boat. A rocket was fired at Mr Groves, knocking him to the deck and causing injuries to his ears. In spite of this he radioed for assistance to his team of Master-at-Arms. Som Bahadur Gurung, and a colleague, arrived on the deck. Automatic rifle fire continued and a second rocket was launched at the ship. Mr Groves asked for a volunteer to operate one of the two pieces of equipment available to counter the attack. Mr Gurung volunteered to operate the LRAD, whilst Mr Groves returned to the hose. Both were fully exposed to fire from both boats. Mr Gurung ran across the exposed area of deck and reached the LRAD. The rail was of waist height, and the LRAD was mounted on it with no surrounding cover. Mr Gurung then stood to his full height to activate and direct the device to its target. He managed to insert the key in the LRAD, but before he could activate it he was hit by a bullet and shrapnel struck his upper body. He was knocked unconscious. Mr Groves dragged him to safety, returned to the LRAD and directed it towards the boats. The pirates tried to board the ship but Mr Groves continued to operate the LRAD. After about 30 minutes the attack stopped and the boats turned away.

#### The Queen's Gallantry Medal

Paul LEIGH, Sergeant, Lancashire Constabulary.  
Lukmann MULLA, Constable, Lancashire Constabulary.

*For their actions in dealing with a man wielding a firearm and other explosive devices.*

During the early afternoon in July 2005, Constable Mulla and two colleagues attended an address in Rawtenstall, Lancashire to question a man following a complaint of

harassment by a local woman. The officers decided that a forced entry was necessary and an enforcer was requested by radio. Sergeant Leigh arrived with the enforcer and Constable Mulla, with his colleague, forced open the door and entered the house. As the first officer approached the foot of the stairs he could see the suspect standing at the top holding a firearm. The man immediately raised the gun and shot the officer and discharged other shots out of the window which damaged vehicles. Both officers retreated and the injured officer collapsed at the side of the house. Sergeant Leigh realised that his colleague was badly injured so he crossed the line of fire to give him support. The suspect then threw two lighted petrol bombs from a rear window which set a shed alight. Sergeant Leigh remained with his fallen colleague and a further two shots were fired. Constable Mulla recognised the need for a first aid kit, which he obtained from a vehicle, and he too crossed through the line of fire to offer more help to the injured officer. After a while the Armed Response Unit arrived, rescued the injured officer and took control. They were attempting a limited entry of the premises when they heard three more shots so they kept the premises under observation. The man and his dog were found dead in the house the following morning.

### The Queen's Gallantry Medal

Michael SWINDELLS (deceased). Detective Constable, West Midlands Police.

*For his actions in apprehending a man wielding a knife.*

One afternoon in May 2004 Constable Swindells, and a colleague, were on duty in Aston, Birmingham when they heard that various colleagues were pursuing a man who was brandishing a knife, running through the streets towards a tow path, under the M6 motorway. They both responded immediately. At a point where the tow path narrows several officers were chasing the culprit but had fallen back, and the two officers joined in the pursuit. They soon found themselves at the front of the group where they maintained close contact with the offender. Constable Swindells recognised an opportunity to detain the man and make an arrest. He held a baton above his head and shouted "Stop, Police". The offender then turned and slashed with his knife which Constable Swindells initially avoided by swaying backwards. But he was not able to step away in time from the full force of a further attack and he was fatally stabbed. The offender was found guilty of manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility.

### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

John David MARSLAND, Constable, West Yorkshire Police.

Graeme Buchanan MACDONALD, Constable, West Yorkshire Police.

*For their actions in containing a man firing a gun in a residential area.*

In October 2005 Constables Marsland and MacDonald were on duty when they received a call about a firearms incident in Leeds. A man had turned up at a house where, until very recently, he had lived. He had intended to pick up his collection of licensed guns. His ex-partner was annoyed when she found him in her house and phoned the police to get him removed. Various officers arrived and tried to reason with him but he refused to co-operate and his behaviour deteriorated. Vehicles were used to provide a safe area in front of the premises. The man came out of the house and began indiscriminately firing a significant volume of shots at officers and vehicles. Constables Marsland and MacDonald arrived at the scene and recognising the danger to their colleagues and the public, who at a safe distance were watching and jeering at the police, immediately took up position, without protective headgear. The two officers remained for several hours to contain the suspect in a confined area, so he would not harm others. Constable Marsland wounded him during the siege and the firing reduced and eventually the suspect surrendered. He was sentenced to eight years in prison.

### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Richard Thomas COULTON, Constable, West Yorkshire Police.

Gary PANTHER, Constable, West Yorkshire Police.

*For their actions in apprehending a man with a firearm.*

At about 0500 hours on a Sunday in August 2005, Constables Coulton and Panther were on duty in Leeds city centre, when they spotted a speeding van with a flat tyre. They decided to follow in their vehicle. They turned on the sirens and flashed lights to indicate to the driver that they wanted him to stop. The chase continued for a number of minutes but eventually the vehicle stopped and two men got out and ran down a path with the officers in pursuit. Constable Panther shouted to the suspects to stop but their request went unheeded. They noticed that the driver was carrying a long black object. The second man who lagged behind then raised an object similar to the first man's, and rested it on his right shoulder. He aimed it at the officers and as he did so a small puff of smoke exited from the item. The firearm was thrown towards them. Constable Coulton then released his CS spray on to the back of the suspect's head and tripped him up; he fell to the ground. Constable Panther then grabbed

hold and attempted to handcuff him. A struggle ensued, with the suspect trying hard to reach his jacket pockets as if to find another weapon, but between them the officers managed to restrain him. The driver of the van escaped. The suspect was sentenced to eight years imprisonment for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and with possession of a loaded shotgun in a public place.

### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

David CUNNINGTON, Constable, Kent Police.

*For his actions in tackling a man with a gun.*

In February 2004, late in the evening in Tunbridge Wells, Constable Cunningham and a colleague, were on mobile patrol when they received a call regarding a burglary. On arrival at the address Constable Cunningham saw a male, whom he recognised as an offender recently released from prison, enter a communal door to a block of flats. His colleague waited at the door but he went in and straight up the stairs to a small landing. The offender was carrying a briefcase in one hand and held a small handgun in the other. Constable Cunningham was three to four feet away and feared that the offender might threaten him or others, or barricade himself inside his flat. He approached the offender, then grabbed him by the waist. The offender struggled furiously but Constable Cunningham lost his

grip around the waist but kept hold of his legs. At the same time he was pulled down the stairs and the man escaped but was later detained and arrested.

### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Michael WINSTANLEY, Civilian.

*For his actions rescuing two people from a crashed light aircraft.*

In August 2004 a light aircraft crashed close to Hurn Airport, Bournemouth. Michael Winstanley was driving along a road adjacent to the airport boundary fence, near the crash site. He saw that the aircraft's fuel had started to gush out and as he was leaving his van, he saw a large flame appear from the engine compartment and heard an explosion. He then witnessed a person climbing out of a side window and fall to the ground. Mr Winstanley ran over to the side of the burning plane and assisted the injured man to safety. As he looked back to the aircraft, which was now fully ablaze, he saw a second man emerging from the wreckage and then fall down. Mr Winstanley went back to the burning plane, assisted the second man, by patting out the flames on his clothes, and helped him away from the danger. At this point he heard screams from inside the plane and realised that a third person had died in the plane. Other members of the public then came forward to facilitate access by the emergency services.

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