

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