

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.