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Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1

23 March 2012

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

George Medal

Alistair Klaas NEILL, Civilian
Royston Matthew SMITH, Civilian

For tackling and subduing a gunman armed with a semi automatic weapon

On 8 April 2011 Alistair Neill and Royston Smith were both visitors on board HMS Astute, which was in Southampton for a liaison visit. Many civilians were on board. They were with other guests in the Control Room when they became aware of some loud bangs and saw one of the Naval Officers move towards the corridor. They then heard another bang and saw the same officer collapse to the floor. The gunman (who was an armed sentry on board) then entered the Control Room and shot another officer.

Both men believed the submarine was under terrorist attack and that the sentry would continue to fire until he ran out of ammunition. Alistair Neill was stood in front of the sentry when Royston Smith grabbed the firearm and began to grapple with the sentry. Alistair Neill also wrestled with the sentry and attempted to restrain him against a wall during which the sentry fired his weapon

again. They eventually succeeded in wrestling the gun away from the sentry and it dropped to the floor. They managed to pin the sentry to the floor and fought to restrain him. Both men were concerned that the sentry may have further weapons and even explosives. Alistair Neill was injured in the struggle but still managed to hold on to the sentry until Military Police officers arrived at the scene.

Both men placed themselves at great risk by choosing to tackle someone who had shot at least two Naval Officers. By their actions they prevented further shootings and possible death or injury to others on board the submarine.

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Adan ABOBAKER, Civilian

For rescuing a person in danger of drowning

On 16 November 2010, at about 22.30 hours, Adan Abobaker was walking by the River Thames when he was alerted by the screams of a passer-by to a female in the water who appeared to be in difficulty. He immediately grabbed a life ring and threw it towards the female but she was too far away for it to reach her. Without hesitation, he removed his outer clothing and plunged into the river and began swimming towards her. The female in distress was some 20–30 metres away from the shore. That evening, the outside temperature was 6C so the water temperature would have been near freezing. It was high tide and the tide had extremely strong undercurrents. Visibility was also poor. He had to dive beneath the water several times before reaching the female. He held her head to his chest and then started to swim back to shore. Eventually, they were rescued by the crew of a safety