

vessel. He was subsequently treated for hypothermia and had to be warmed with special piped air equipment. The female rescued made a full recovery.

Fire-fighter Andrew ALEXANDER
 Fire-fighter Sanjeev MOHLA
 Fire-fighter Daniel WAREHAM
 Fire-fighter Matthew WILLIS

For rescuing two injured people from an unstable building

On 20 June 2010 an explosion destroyed a property in Nottingham. Despite the risk of further collapse or possible explosion, four fire-fighters entered the building to search for survivors. Fire-fighters Alexander and Mohla entered first and searched upstairs. They found no-one but from a gaping hole in the floor were able to see an adult trapped below in the rubble. They went downstairs immediately and then found a second casualty. Both had sustained extensive, traumatic injuries. With two badly injured casualties to deal with, Fire-fighter Mohla went outside to request assistance while Fire-fighter Alexander remained inside the building. Fire-fighter Mohla returned with Fire-fighters Willis and Wareham. They carried out one of the casualties and Fire-fighter Mohla then accompanied Fire-fighter Alexander as they moved deeper into the unstable building to rescue the second casualty. Having reached the injured person, they were then assisted by Fire-fighters Willis and Wareham (who had re-entered the building) in rescuing the second casualty. This was achieved by evacuating the casualty out of a damaged window. Both casualties survived the explosion despite their injuries.

Kenneth MCGONIGLE (deceased), Civilian

For preventing an attack by insurgents in Afghanistan

Ken McGonigle was working as a mentor to the Afghan Police at a base in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. On 7 August 2010, while in his quarters, he was alerted by his UK national Afghan interpreter to an imminent threat. He ran outside and saw an insurgent armed with an RPG rocket launcher. The insurgent was looking to destroy and murder all occupants of a helicopter that was about to lift off. Ken McGonigle knew that a number of service personnel were on board the helicopter. Without hesitation, he drew his pistol and engaged the gunman at close quarters. As another gunman emerged he continued to engage until they disappeared out of sight. Once the terrorists retreated he alerted colleagues to the imminent danger. He then led a party of marines to where the gunmen were located. The group discovered that the attack was in fact much larger and more deadly than first thought. Four gunmen were involved, armed with automatic weapons, RPGs and AK 47 automatic weapons. They attacked the group and in the ensuing fire fight Ken McGonigle was killed. Without his intervention it is likely that a number of British lives would have been lost.

Matthew ROBINSON, Civilian

On 3 January 2010, Matthew Robinson was at home when he heard calls for help from outside. On investigation, he discovered the house next door was on

fire and a 16 year old female was leaning out of a first floor window in some distress. He knew that five children lived in the house. Realising that all the children may be trapped inside, he immediately forced entry into the property, only to be forced back by six feet high flames and heavy smoke. Meanwhile, his mother had placed a ladder against the burning building and this allowed three children to escape to safety. He then climbed the ladder to rescue the two remaining children. He had to search in a bedroom filled with thick smoke but eventually managed to locate the two children, one of whom was unconscious. He passed both children to safety and then evacuated the building himself. He and the family rescued were later taken to hospital and treated for the effects of smoke inhalation.

Anton Charles TURNER (deceased), Civilian

For facing a charging elephant in order to protect others

Anton Turner was working as Chief Guide during the filming of a BBC children's television series in Tanzania. On 30 October 2009 he was part of a forward party which included two trackers armed with spears. He was armed with a rifle. The rest of the party (expedition team, production crew, children and others, some of whom were British including the children) followed behind. They were all walking along ancient elephant trails with dense foliage on either side of the trail. About mid-morning two bull elephants were spotted ahead on the track. The elephants took a trail to the right so the party moved along the left hand trail. About 20 minutes later, a young bull elephant unexpectedly charged the group at very close proximity out of the foliage. The charging elephant was spotted by the two trackers in the advance party who shouted a warning. This alerted the rest of the group who ran or dived off the side of the path behind bushes and trees. The elephant was in full charge. Anton Turner stood his ground and shouted at the elephant in an attempt to scare it off. He did not move out of the path of the charging elephant and was thrown to the ground. The elephant was shot twice by another guide before fleeing along the path. But Anton Turner was fatally injured. The action he took was to protect those in his care.

Neil WALKER, Prison Officer

For tackling and restraining an armed and dangerous prisoner

Officer Walker was on duty at HMP Frankland, a high security prison, on 13 March 2010 when a prisoner was unlocked by other officers from his cell to receive prescribed medication. As the cell door was opened the prisoner lunged forward with a broken bottle, causing a serious injury to one officer by severing an artery and nerve-endings in his upper left arm. The officer managed to retreat from the scene, suffering a heavy loss of blood. The prisoner then proceeded to chase another officer along the prison landing, stabbing her with great force in the back, inflicting serious injuries. Officer Walker was on duty nearby and was the first member of staff to reach the scene of the ongoing incident. Two colleagues had been victims to life threatening attacks and the second remained at risk to further attack from the prisoner, who continued to pursue her. Officer Walker demonstrated