

CIT Newsletter



Portland Police Bureau's Crisis Intervention Team

www.portlandpolicebureau.com

August/September 2006

Officers recognized for jobs well done

One of the great things about being a police officer is that every day is different; you don't know what to expect when that next call comes in.

The following women and men of the Portland Police Bureau never knew what was going to hit them, and they were put into situations that tested their skills, courage and respect for human life – and all passed with flying colors.

Keep up the great work.

Ofc. Louis Seals (CIT) (East Precinct)

On March 7, 2006, at 10:30 p.m., a call came in from the 1000 block of NE 114th that a man had a gun and was thinking about killing himself. He called his girlfriend and told her that if she left him, he would kill himself. She called 9-1-1. A perimeter was put around the house, and CIT Ofc. Seals called the house and talked with the despondent man. Ofc. Seals managed to get him to cooperate and come out of the house, where he was safely taken into custody. He was later taken to Providence on an involuntary hold. By using his CIT skills, Ofc. Seals was able to de-escalate the situation, and make sure the call was resolved safely. Good job, Louie.

Sgt. Jess Smith (Northeast Precinct)

On March 19, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., an intoxicated man called the crisis line from the 200 block of NE Russet and said he wanted to kill himself with a shotgun. Officers arrived, and Sgt. Smith called the man on the phone and convinced him to come outside without the shotgun. Sgt. Smith should be commended for his patience and persistence in preventing the man from hurting himself.

Ofcs. Dane Reister and Michael Bledsoe (Central Precinct)

On March 21, 2006, at 10:25 p.m., officers responded to a disturbance call at the Alder Hotel. It turned out that a male was being harassed by a female, who also lives at the hotel. The male

wanted the female to leave him alone, and when Ofcs. Reister and Bledsoe went to her room to tell her, they found her door halfway open. The officers looked inside after announcing themselves, and were greeted by the woman with a 10-inch kitchen knife positioned to cut her wrist.

They told her to drop it as they backed up and made it out to the hallway. She then closed the door on them. Ofc. Reister tried to persuade her to come outside to talk, but she refused. After they called for more cover, she re-opened the door and backed away from it. The two officers, fearing she might harm herself, went back in and found her in her room. The woman's back was to the officers, and since they could not see if she had the knife,

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CIT class graduates 16

In June 2006, a 40-hour CIT class was held and 10 new Portland Police Bureau officers graduated. In addition, we had three Portland State University Public Safety Department officers, two Gresham Police Department officers (who are also on GPD HNT), and one Multnomah County Sheriff's Office detective.

We had a special guest for the first hour of the class, which was titled "Introduction to CIT." The class was informed of several events that influenced the importance of training front-line officers on how to handle mentally ill individuals. None is more important than the Nathan Thomas incident.

Martha McMurray spoke about the tragic day in January 1992 when her son, Nathan Thomas, was killed. She spoke in an off-the-cuff style that commanded everyone's attention and respect. She said the changes

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they chose to Taser her and she was successfully taken into custody, and to OHSU on an involuntary hold. Both officers should be commended for their skill and patience in dealing with a situation that could have ended tragically.

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Ofcs. Shaun Sahli (CIT), Tom Kaplan, Bradley Kula (CIT), Ryan Albertson, John Fulitano and Sgt. Jason Pearce (Southeast Precinct)

On April 15, 2006, at 9:50 p.m., officers responded to a call on the 3300 block of SE Hawthorne about a mentally ill man with a butcher knife inside an apartment and yelling incoherently.

Officers set up a perimeter and tried to talk to the man, who continued to scream from a second-floor window while holding a knife. They could also hear him throwing and breaking things in the apartment. To make things worse, the roommate of the mentally ill man came home and demanded to be let back inside his apartment. After the officers explained the situation, the roommate tried to talk the man into coming out, but had no luck.

According to the roommate, the man inside the apartment may have also been doing meth. After increasingly larger objects were thrown out the window, Sgt. Pearce drew up a plan to forcibly enter the apartment and use bean bags and Taser to subdue the man, which worked. The man was safely taken into custody and was later taken to Providence on an involuntary hold. Patience, persistence and a good tactical plan helped bring about a safe resolution.

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Ofcs. Bradley Kula (CIT), Ney Phothivongsa and Peter Gill (Southeast Precinct)

On April 17, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., officers were sent to a house in the 5500 block of SE Harold after a man went up to the roof of the house and refused to come down. CIT Officer Kula arrived and tried to get the man down, but the man was very paranoid and distrustful. To make matters worse, the man began to smoke crack while he was on the roof, and called it his "medicine." The Portland Fire Bureau came with a ladder, and Ofcs. Gill and Phothivongsa went on the roof. With the help of volunteers from Project Respond, the man was finally talked into climbing down off of the roof. He was taken to Legacy Emanuel Hospital on an involuntary hold. As you can imagine, the patience and composure of all the officers were tested on this call, but the man was handled in a professional and safe manner.

Next issue of the CIT Newsletter

The next issue of the CIT Newsletter will be distributed in October (October/November issue). Please contact Ofc. Paul Ware (503-823-0183) in the Training Division with suggestions for articles.

The newsletter is published six times a year by the Portland Police Bureau's Training and Planning and Support Divisions, Chief Rosanne M. Sizer and Mayor Tom Potter. Our address is: 1111 SW 2nd Ave., Room 1180, Portland, OR 97204. FAX: 503-823-0399.

Website: www.portlandpolice.com.

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in the Police Bureau's handling of the mentally ill and additional training available to the officers has made a difference for the better. Ms. McMurray praised the class members for volunteering to take on additional calls involving the mentally ill. The class was quite moved by her eloquence.

It was an honor to have Ms. McMurray come and speak to us. She put a face on our purpose and mission.

CIT graduates

• **Portland Police Bureau**

Joshua Bocchino
Becky Braun
Amy Bruner-Dehnert
Curtis Chinn
Jason Faulk
Richard Holthausen
Jacob Jensen
Terry Locke
Amanda McMillan
Jennifer Snider

• **PSU Public Safety Department**

Mary Linhart
Rena Nylander
Suzanne Otnes

• **Gresham Police Department**

Adam Baker
Jennifer Ritschard

• **Multnomah County Sheriff's Office**

Jon Gaddis