

CUMBRIA POLICE AUTHORITY

15 February 2012
Agenda Item No 15

Cumbria Police Authority Award for Bravery

Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

At the Police Authority meeting of 14th February 2003 it was agreed that the Authority would make an annual award for bravery in conjunction with the Police Bravery Awards organised nationally by the Police Federation. The nominees would then progress to the National Bravery Award “recognised” formally by the Members of Cumbria Police Authority, the Constabulary and Police Federation.

The National Award ceremony is sponsored by the Sun Newspaper and held every year in July at the Dorchester Hotel in London, receiving extensive media coverage, both nationally and locally. However, with the Olympics also being held in the summer, the date of the event may change this year. An announcement will be made in due course.

The criterion for the award is as follows:

“In the opinion of the national selection committee the most outstanding act of courage or bravery by a member of the police service in England and Wales in placing themselves at risk of death or serious injury for which a medal, commendation or other recognition was made during the calendar year under consideration.”

The incident leading to the nomination could have occurred at any time, but the act has to be “recognised” in the year before the award takes place.

This year members are asked to consider the attached nomination in respect of Inspector Dennis Kelly.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Members concur with the proposed nominations attached.
2. That the Cumbria Police Authority award for Bravery, an Elterwater Slate Shield, be presented to the nominees at the next Constabulary Award Ceremony by the Chair of the Police Authority or his nominee.
3. That the nominees receive a lifelong certificate from the Police Authority to accompany this shield.

DETAIL

Inspector Dennis Kelly is commended for his courage and decisiveness, whilst off duty, in overpowering a man in the act of committing an armed robbery at a garage in Maryport on 29th July 2010.

The officer had stopped to refuel his car, when he became suspicious of a man at the night counter. He took a closer look, and saw the man pull out a gun and point it at the assistant.

Dennis reacted immediately by pushing the man against the counter, and wrestled the gun out of his hand before arresting him. The man struggled to escape, but the officer managed to restrain the assailant for around twenty minutes before colleagues arrived to assist.

On 21st March 2011 at Carlisle Crown Court the offender was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment for this offence and Judge Peter Hughes QC commended the officer's actions on that day.

This was an act of true bravery; Dennis did not hesitate to challenge the armed offender despite the risks involved and was in the finest traditions of Cumbria Constabulary.

Stuart Hyde
Chief Constable

9 February 2012