

## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **Assistant Chief Norma Hardy Named Officer of the Year in International Awards**

Assistant Chief Norma Hardy of the New York/New Jersey Port Authority has been named Officer of the Year in the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) annual awards ceremony which was held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Assistant Chief Hardy received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "Over a career spanning 22 years with the Port Authority, Assistant Chief Hardy has shown great leadership as well as excellence in her performance in duties to the community she serves. She is well respected by her fellow officers as a mentor and she is an example of what a good officer should strive for. As she has moved up the ranks she has continued to raise the bar for herself and then can be seen reaching behind and bringing others along. Many of the officers in the upper ranks of the Port Authority have benefitted from the mentorship of Assistant Chief Hardy."

On February 26, 1993, just 16 weeks after joining the Port Authority Assistant Chief Hardy was in the basement of the north tower of the World Trade Center when there was a terrorist attack. She was credited with saving the lives of over 40 people when she escorted them and several other officers through the chaos and smoke to the safety of the street level. For her actions that day she was awarded the Medal of Valor for Individual Acts of Courage.

Assistant Chief Hardy was the first female officer to be trained in the nationally-renowned Youth Services Unit of the Port Authority PD. While assigned to the Port Authority Bus Terminal in NYC she was instrumental in bringing down a major prostitution ring that had been transporting minors across state lines and into New York and New Jersey.

She plays an active role in her community. She is an ambassador to the Special Olympics and Wounded Warrior's Project. She also gives talks about her career and anti-gang efforts to local children.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 Assistant Chief Hardy was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was assigned to the busy Port Authority Bus Terminal. Shortly after her promotion, she was specifically chosen to return to the World Trade Center site to help boost the morale of officers there during the recovery process. She went on to forge strong relationships with the 9-11 families and the various agencies involved in the recovery and rebuilding of the site.

She was promoted to Lieutenant and made the Executive Officer of the World Trade Center Command in 2006. While in command she noticed that there was often confusion when emergencies occurred and that it was due in part to the fact many of the streets around the complex no longer had street signs. Then Lieutenant Hardy, worked along with civilian engineers and designed a color coded emergency response system which helps outside agencies responding on mutual aid emergencies navigate in and around the site more easily.

Assistant Chief Hardy was promoted to the rank of Captain in 2008 and went to the Holland Tunnel as Commander. By 2011 she was promoted to the rank of Inspector and was in charge of the George Washington Bridge, Lincoln Tunnel and the Port Authority Bus Terminal. The commands under her leadership were named "Port Authority Police Command of the Year" for three years in a row.

In August 2013, Norma Hardy was promoted to the rank of Assistant Chief. She is one of only two women to have ever achieved this rank and she now oversees approximately 1700 law enforcement personnel.

She has been involved in mentoring programs with the Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement and guides young officers in many different agencies in several states.

She became the first individual from law enforcement to receive the "Black Achievers in Industry Award" from the YMCA due to her involvement in anti-gang initiatives.

She is also a published poet and one of her poems about 9/11 was put to music and sold to raise money for the victims of the attack.

In the course of Assistant Chief Hardy's career she has been awarded three Meritorious Police Duty Medals, 8 Excellent Duty Medals, the 2008 Papal Medal, and the 2001 World Trade Center Medal in addition to the Medal of Valor for the 1993 World Trade Center Bombing. The Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement awarded Assistant Chief Hardy the 2014 Leadership Award.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or email [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **RCMP Officer Receives Mentoring Award at International Ceremony**

A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer who has "committed herself to advancing the status of women in law enforcement" has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Community Service Award at a ceremony held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Chief Superintendent Jennifer Strachan, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "The nomination that our awards committee received regarding Chief Supt Strachan was indeed impressive. Six officers took the time out to write about the real impact that she has had on their careers through her mentoring, leadership and guidance. It is clear that Chief Supt Strachan is held in very high esteem amongst her officers and has the ability to inspire them to achieve their very best."

Chief Superintendent Strachan joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Vancouver, B.C. on June 3rd, 1988. As a Non Commissioned Officer, she experienced ten years of operational postings including general duty policing and highway patrol. She also took on administrative postings within human resources and as the Desk Officer responsible for Peacekeeping Deployment to the Former Yugoslavia while posted at the International Peacekeeping Operations Branch in Ottawa.

She was Commissioned in 2002 to the role of Executive Officer to the Deputy Commissioner of Corporate Management & Controllership and since then her postings have included: Officer in Charge of the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre, D/Insp. in Charge of Montreal Drug Section, Officer in Charge of Operational Support Services in "C" Division and as Officer in Charge of Operational Policy and Programs at National Headquarters. In June 2009, Chief Superintendent Jennifer Strachan returned to her passion of

operational policing after accepting a transfer from Ottawa HQ to a position as the North East District Commander in "O" Division.

Chief Superintendent Strachan is currently Officer in Charge of Criminal Operations for the RCMP in Ontario, the first woman to oversee all criminal operations in Ontario for which she says she is "very grateful to my organisation."

Career highlights for Chief Superintendent Strachan include a 1996 Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti as well as her work with a team of employees building the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre from 2004 – 2006, which involved integrated work with National and International agencies to investigate internet based child sexual exploitation.

Some of the comments from officers who have benefited from Chief Supt Strachan's leadership include:

*"For many years now I have been able to look to her and her career for guidance and inspiration. C/Supt. Strachan has conducted herself and her career in a manner that is inspirational, reflective of our core values and her personal integrity and is, in all ways and at all times, respectable and applaudable. Through hard work and application of her many skills she has come to great success in her career, yet she has remained approachable, personable and dedicated to the development of others."*

*"She has committed herself very significantly to advancing the status of women in law enforcement through the example she provides in her own very successful career and in assisting and guiding the development of others. She is very deserving of this award."*

*"Chief Superintendent Jennifer Strachan is a model of inspiration to all members serving under her command. Her outstanding communication and interpersonal skills have paved the way for numerous law enforcement officers to develop and perform at a heightened level within the RCMP. She is committed to seeking out individuals to mentor and devotes her personal time to their development and progression."*

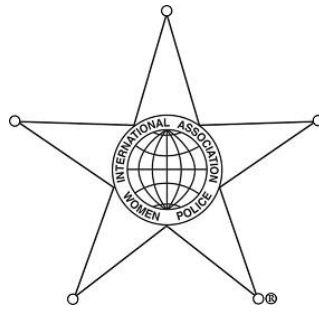
The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer

support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR at [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **Metropolitan Police Community Support Officer Receives Community Service Award at International Ceremony**

A London Metropolitan Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Community Service Award at a ceremony held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

PCSO Guinnie Mooneesawmy received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "It is clear from the nomination we received regarding PCSO Mooneesawmy that she is held in the highest regard by her colleagues and senior officers. They have described her as professional, positive, productive and successful and a true ambassador of the Metropolitan Police Service in London."

A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in the UK is a uniformed civilian working and patrolling alongside police officers, but with limited powers, namely to detain someone until an officer can arrest. They act as eyes and ears for the police and work mainly in Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) consisting of a Sergeant, several Constables and several PCSOs, focusing on community policing.

*More...*

PCSO Mooneesawmy started her career in September 2003 and was posted to Richmond Town Centre SNT, West London. She is one of the two longest serving PCSOs at the station and is renowned for her professionalism, dedication and outstanding hard work which results in daily arrests.

A typical day for PCSO Mooneesawmy sees her arriving several hours before she is due on duty to update herself on police briefings and within 30 minutes of her start time she will be out on patrol, fully dressed in her uniform and high visibility jacket patrolling the town centre.

She is on first name terms with most of the shopkeepers and store security officers.

PCSO Mooneesawmy has been responsible for setting up Richmond Business Watch, a regular meeting for all shop managers, town councillors and even the Richmond Member of Parliament.

Another scheme she is responsible for creating is Richmond Pub Watch. A crime prevention scheme for licensed premises, especially as there is a very large night time economy in Richmond, making it a popular destination for people out socialising at night. She has introduced the door staff to facial recognition and the town centre radio links. This reduces offences as the bar staff can identify suspects and refuse them entry into the pubs and clubs as well as calling for Police to deal with them.

As a crime prevention tool, PCSO Mooneesawmy has introduced the Richmond town link radio system which is used by all but a few of the shops and stores. It is paid for jointly by the shops and the Metropolitan Police. It is used by any of the participating shops and/or Police to circulate details of active shoplifters, fraudsters and wanted persons seen in or known to be around the shops. PCSO Mooneesawmy frequently uses it, either by listening for details of suspects being circulated by shops or broadcasting details of suspects she has seen which results in a number of crime arrests every day.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

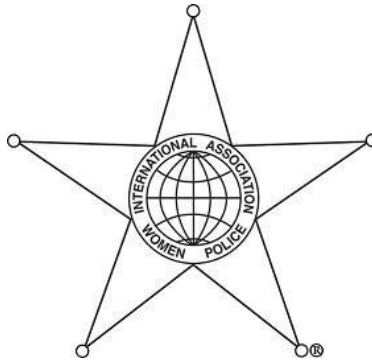
*More...*



The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR at [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **PSNI Inspector Receives Community Service Award at International Ceremony**

Inspector Hazel Brady of the Police Service of Northern Ireland has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Community Service Award at a ceremony which was held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Inspector Brady, who has served as a police officer for 22 years, received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "Partnership and community engagement are at the heart of Inspector Brady's work and her creative and innovative approach has proved enormously helpful to delivering key policing objectives and raising public confidence in local policing. She works tirelessly to combat some of the most heinous crimes that affect vulnerable victims, including child sexual exploitation and human trafficking. She is an extremely worthy recipient of the IAWP's Community Service Award."

For the last four years Insp Brady has been Inspector for Community Safety for in the PSNI's C District, which covers a large geographical area of rural and urban communities with approximately a quarter of a million culturally diverse residents.

She has been the instigator of several district projects focussing on community needs. This includes the successful "Positive Female Role Model/Football Engagement Initiative" an innovative cross cultural project which facilitated engagement between Year 6 and 7 school girls and front line female police officers, who were able to mentor them and encourage healthy and active life choices.

Inspector Brady also championed 'C District Secured', which is a project, aimed at securing the homes of victims of domestic violence, elderly and vulnerable victims of crime. This scheme ensured that victims received adequate and appropriate security measures and advice helping them to feel safe in their homes and enjoy a better quality of life.

In March 2013 Inspector Brady identified cyber-crime as an emerging concern amongst school pupils, parents and teachers. Having conducted research, and as a direct response to community concern in C District (88% of primary schools saw education in Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying as important or higher, 59% of secondary schools viewed addressing this topic as critical), Inspector Brady secured funding from four Police and Community Safety Partnerships across the District to deliver a four week Cyber Crime Project.

This project involved the delivery of an internet safety drama and workshop addressing sexting, on line grooming, cyber bullying, teenage suicide and online gaming. The initiative was attended by over 12,000 secondary school pupils and was achieved at a cost of 70p per child. Further teacher training and parents awareness seminars have been delivered by C District Service Delivery as a direct result of this initiative, ensuring that children are protected more robustly at home and at school from cyber-crime.

Over the last two years Inspector Brady has worked to tackle the issue of high risk missing children and their sexual exploitation. During 2012/13 Inspector Brady assisted securing funding from the Assets Recovery Fund to run a six months programme of engagement between police officers, and the residents and staff of a Children's home. The aim of the programme was to develop trust and understanding between police, care home staff and residents whilst nurturing relationships that would encourage girls to report alleged abuse.

Inspector Brady has also led the way in highlighting the hidden issue of Human Trafficking and her tireless work has led to a PSNI Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Conference attended by more than 50 people from statutory and non-statutory agencies. She also secured training for all front line officers within the District to further raise awareness and the detection of human trafficking victims and offenders.

In partnership with North Down and Ards Active Communities Against Human Trafficking, Inspector Brady hosted a gala evening with celebrity guest speaker Mr. Ross Kemp (popular actor) to raise funds and awareness for a local Human Trafficking Charity. The event was attended by almost 300 people and VIP's and raised over £3000.

Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour is a challenging issue for any police service, to this end Inspector Brady has employed several schemes to attract youths to use their energy and time constructively. One such scheme is 'Starquest', a performing arts competition showcasing young talent. This event used to be held in one town within the District, but over the past four years Insp Brady has developed the scheme where participants now enter from across the district.

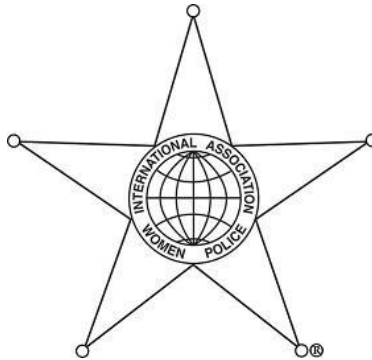
Inspector Brady has been the anchor in securing funding and partnership for another project which has cross cultural and intergenerational benefits called 'The Skiff Project'. In essence 10 rural coast line villages receive 10 kit form boats which they will build, decorate and sail in the local Strangford Lough. This engagement provides a structure and purpose for young and old to meet to build the boat, share knowledge and pass on forgotten craftsmanship in boat building. A local neighbourhood officer is involved with each village boat building event which after six months of building cumulates in a sea race and joint community celebration. This project is a true engagement of community, police and the environment.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or email [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **RCMP Officer Receives Leadership Award at International Ceremony**

A founding member and Investigator on the Manitoba Integrated Task Force for Missing and Murdered Women (MITFMMW) has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Leadership Award at a ceremony which was held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Corporal Bettina Schaible of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "It is clear that throughout her career Cpl Schaible has clearly distinguished herself by her many accomplishments and efforts in homicide investigations as well as her continued long term leadership in the instructing and mentoring in the area of search and seizure and judicial authorizations. She has made a significant contribution to not only the RCMP, but the law enforcement community as a whole."

Cpl Bettina Schaible joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training Academy on March 24, 1998, and was sworn in as a Peace Officer on September 28, 1998.

She has spent her entire career in "D" Division, Manitoba providing excellent service to the Citizens of Manitoba. She was initially posted to The Pas, Manitoba, where she worked as a general duty investigator. Recognized early in her career for her leadership and investigational ability she completed a one month assignment in Major Crime Services in 2003.

*More...*

In 2004 she was transferred to "D" Division Major Crime Services, initially to the Major Crimes Unit, and then to the Serious Crimes Unit, becoming the first female member in Serious Crimes in "D" Division. She quickly embraced her role as a homicide investigator and established herself as a leader within the Unit and the Division and was promoted to the rank of corporal in August 2008.

An excellent homicide investigator, Bettina has investigated numerous matters and has served in all roles of the Major Case Management Command Triangle. She utilizes a common sense approach to her investigations and is highly organized, intellectual, a great leader and a motivator. She is described by her co-workers as "diligent, thorough, insightful, the consummate professional, a true leader, and exceptional in everything she does."

In 2009, because of her experience and work ethic, Cpl Schaible was chosen as a founding member and Investigator on the Manitoba Integrated Task Force for Missing and Murdered Women (MITFMMW). Cpl Schaible played an integral role in developing the focus and mandate of the task force. Her leadership and interpersonal skills were evident and resulted in a focused and dedicated team of investigators from different agencies to review a large volume of historical information that was stored in varying forms.

The team reviewed 84 unsolved homicide and missing persons investigations where foul play was suspected and recommended 28 occurrences for further investigation. When it was decided that a further integrated investigational unit would be formed and additional resources added, Cpl Schaible's knowledge of the extensive investigational reviews of the MITFMMW files, leadership, and experience in SCU, coupled with the respect she earned from members of both the RCMP and Winnipeg Police Service, made her an excellent choice for the role of Primary Investigator for this group.

Cpl Schaible has taught almost 300 peace officers on numerous courses over the years.

Cpl Schaible is a member of the 2014 IAWP Organizing Committee and is on the programming committee, in charge of the speakers for the leadership stream.

*More...*

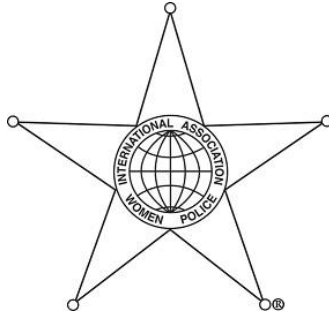
In her spare time, Cpl Schaible is an avid hockey player, cross country skier and soccer player. She was also a member of the first ever all female hockey team for the RCMP Western Hockey Tournament in 2014.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or email [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **Sgt Yvonne Niego Receives Community Service Award at International Ceremony**

The first Inuit woman from Nunavut to be promoted to the rank of Corporal and then Sergeant has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Community Service Award at a ceremony which was held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Sgt Yvonne Niego, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), received the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "Sgt Niego has tirelessly donated her time, often with personal sacrifice, to making Nunavut a safer and better place to live. She had many career options growing up but chose to follow her childhood interest in policing. She embodies what every police officer should be, unselfish, determined and willing to do whatever it takes to make a positive change. Sgt Niego has dedicated her life to the service of the people of her Territory and today the IAWP is proud to recognise her achievements on the international stage."

Sgt Niego grew up in the remote isolated community of Baker Lake, Nunavut with a population of approximately 1000 people of Inuit descent, in Canada's northern arctic.

Her mother, a young woman interested in the arctic and making a difference and her father, a community leader born on the tundra in an igloo, raised her in this small community. Her upbringing and experiences give her a unique perspective in law enforcement which she uses to help bridge differences made by change from not-so-long-ago traditional ways to the fast changing environment of the Canadian Arctic and the complex issues and conflict it brings.

Sgt Niego, like most Inuit youth of her generation, attended Residential School in Churchill and Yellowknife. Starting her life of firsts, she was the first person from her small community to attend University, when she studied at the University of Calgary.



Having a great uncle as an RCMP Special Constable, she always dreamt of a career in Law Enforcement, however this was a time that few Inuit and no female Inuit pursued this career path.

She was first recruited in 1989 as a summer student and she worked as a guard matron at the local detachment, further fuelling her resolve to become a "Mountie". In 1991, she realized her dream as she attended the RCMP Training Academy and became the first female Inuk from Nunavut to become a full regular member.

After training she was posted to Iqaluit, Nunavut, before returning to her home community where she worked for several years. She took the immense pressures of policing her home community in her stride.

Sgt Niego took leave to start her family, raising three children and taking on employment outside the force for Territorial and Municipal Governments in the areas of Consumer Affairs, Finance, Human Resources and Recreation. Her passion to serve her people remained however and after her children grew, she returned to the RCMP.

After a few additional transfers within the territory, she was recruited as a subject matter expert with the Community and Aboriginal Policing Directorate at RCMP Headquarters in Ottawa. She brought the Inuit perspective to several major files being faced by the directorate and further expanded her knowledge through a transfer to the National Security Program.

She had another first, being the first Inuk female from Nunavut promoted to the rank of Corporal within the Canadian Police Information Centre. Sgt Niego's love for the north and desire to serve her people drew her back to Nunavut to a posting in Iqaluit. She again made history as she was promoted to her current role as the Non Commissioned Officer in charge of Community Policing for Nunavut.

Recognized as one of the country's leading Inuit Policing experts, Sgt Niego oversees all community policing initiatives for "V" Division and is also the Divisional Media Coordinator. She is an accomplished crisis negotiator and leads the Divisional Crisis Negotiator Team.

She is also a member of several Boards of Directors for external groups including women's shelters, suicide prevention organizations and youth groups. She is an avid coach, fundraiser and has worked on community justice committees.

Sgt Niego's focus throughout her career has been on helping the vulnerable and her involvement does not stop after the end of the workday as she spends countless hours of her own time on these initiatives.

Some of the Community Service initiatives that Sgt Niego has spearheaded include:

**Firearm Safety Initiative:** Firearms are part of traditional life in Nunavut, with almost every home in the Territory having one or more. It is estimated that there are over 10,000 firearms in Nunavut. Unfortunately, firearms are all too often used as a weapon of opportunity in violent crimes and incidents, such as murders, other firearms offences and suicides. In many of these cases, improperly secured firearms were used by individuals. Sgt Niego realized that something needed to be done to address unsecured firearms and minimize the damage that these events were having on the people of Nunavut. Sgt Niego created a pilot project and lobbied a local Inuit Association for funds to purchase approximately 1500 trigger locks to be provided in a number of target communities. She developed a multi-faceted program which saw her create and train a team of Inuit speaking members (as many of the community members do not speak or understand English) to conduct door to door education sessions on firearm safety, firearms licensing and requirements to secure weapons within the target communities. She also worked with local media to provide further information to the community and with the Chief Territorial Firearms Officer to set up further community education in general meetings and at the schools for youth. The program was a success in the first four communities, however experienced funding difficulties. Not being deterred, Sgt Niego utilized her contacts within the Territorial Government, Department of Health to fund the purchase of over 9000 additional locks to allow the program to continue throughout the entire territory.

The program continues and while it is difficult to measure the number of lives that have been saved as a result of the program to date and going forward, there have been reports where intoxicated individuals have been stopped from utilizing firearms as they have been properly secured. In addition, the door to door contact with community members in a positive environment, especially elders, has worked to form further bonds between police and community.

**Family Violence, Child Abuse and Child Sexual Abuse Initiatives:** Sgt Niego is a proponent of protecting the most vulnerable of society. She coordinates and instructs on the Child Abuse, Family Violence and Human Trafficking Investigator Course. This course is taught to police officers, social workers and others service providers responding to these types of complaints.

She has successfully mentored others not only through the training, but also as a resource that is frequently called upon.

Sgt Niego is a very skilled child interviewer and is called upon as a Subject Matter Expert in the territory to assist in interviews of victims of abuse. She readily assists outside of her normal duties in these investigations. As an Inuit member who can speak Inuktitut (the language of the Inuit), she can further bridge the cultural gap and provide youth victims the comfort to make disclosures.

She is a board member of the YWCA Women's Society which provides shelter to homeless and abused women and children. While living in Ottawa, she was also a board member of the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, providing support to Inuit children. She spends countless hours of her own time providing support to women/children in need and coordinating fundraising events to keep these organizations viable. After work, when she is not coaching sports, such as hockey and basketball, she knits sweaters and makes traditional Inuit clothing to donate to charity.

Sgt Niego, understanding the need to bring diverse experiences to the youth of today, has also been involved in a number of recruiting and development initiatives targeting Inuit youth. Building on a personal experience where she was a summer student she has worked with the RCMP Boot Camp – where the RCMP host 26 youths and introduce them to policing as a career and instil the core values of the RCMP. She has also worked with the summer student program wherein students from every community come for a week of training to work with the RCMP over the summer. She is facilitator, translator, driver, and house mom. She demonstrates character and values for these young students. By extension, she has brought students to Regina (RCMP Training Academy) for further orientation, development and recruitment opportunities. She is the Division's SAFE school coordinator and is responsible for ensuring the delivery of crime prevention and youth safety/alcohol/drug programming.

**Suicide Prevention Initiatives:** Nunavut has the second highest suicide rates of any region in the world. The RCMP has been working with partner agencies to contribute to the Suicide Prevention Action Plan and Sgt Niego has been a long-time proponent of proactive Suicide Prevention.

She is the former President and current Vice President of the Nunavut Embrace Life Council, an organization which works tirelessly to provide suicide prevention programming. She worked on developing the RCMP and Government of Nunavut initiatives in the Suicide Prevention Action Plan and is an active member of the Implementation Working Group, which works to operationalize initiatives to examine and address a wide range of areas linked to increased suicide risk.

As the Divisional Crisis Negotiator Coordinator, she and her team have personally de-escalated suicidal, barricaded individuals, using her knowledge of the culture to her advantage. She coordinates the Divisional training of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and Mental Health First Aid and is active in delivering the healthy living message in Nunavut schools.

**Cultural Orientation and Conflict Resolution:** Nunavut Territory's population is 85% Inuit (aboriginal) which has a very strong and unique culture which has at times seen the police as "outsiders".

Sgt Niego's understanding of the need for RCMP members to learn about the Inuit Culture led her to create an Inuit Perceptions Course, which provides a primer for current and new members being transferred to Nunavut. The training, which is delivered by Sgt Niego, touches on cultural issues, RCMP history with the Inuit and ways to be respectful in the execution of police duties. The training covers areas ranging from facial gestures to Inuit customs as they relate to dealing with death. The training also serves to educate Inuit in the role of the police, which traditionally was foreign in their culture.

Sgt Niego is also an active member of the Inuit Member Committee and is a proponent of both Inuit and women's concerns.

**Media Relations:** Sgt Niego is the Divisional Media Coordinator and the voice of the RCMP in Nunavut. Among her other responsibilities, she is counted on to prepare and present on new and existing issues in the Territory.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

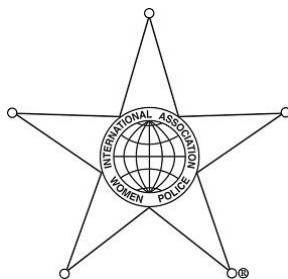
The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies. The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact  
Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or email  
[mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**

**Notes to Editors:**

- The Territory of Nunavut is a sparsely populated (approx. 32,000 people), vast geographical region (21% of Canada's Landmass) in Canada's North. Home to the Inuit people, a traditional nomadic hunting and gathering culture, until the early 1900's there was very limited influence of European culture in Nunavut. The police presence began in the 1920's and in the 1950's the Inuit began to abandon their nomadic life and settle in communities. As often the only Government presence in these communities during this time, the police have been labelled by some as outsiders; a reason for the erosion of culture and the introduction of negative western influences. Currently the Territory has very high rates of violent crime, sexual abuse, suicides and problems with alcohol/drug abuse. Today, there are 25 remote communities in Nunavut, each with a small Detachment of

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) officers which are only accessible via air, throughout the year.



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

# **Stafford, Texas Officer Receives Medal of Valor at International Ceremony**

A Stafford, Texas, police officer who, despite being shot in the chest and face continued to pursue the suspects, has received the Medal of Valor from the International Association of Women Police (IAWP).

Officer Ann Carrizales received the prestigious honour at an awards ceremony attended by hundreds of police women from around the world during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "Officer Carrizales's bravery on that day is astounding. Even though she had been shot twice she continued to pursue the suspects. She very courageously, at real risk to her own personal safety, went above and beyond the call of duty. Despite suffering serious injury she put the public's interest and safety before her own."

The incident happened in October last year (2013) when Officer Carrizales stopped a vehicle for traffic violations. Inside were three males. She approached and was speaking with the driver when the passenger inside the vehicle shot her once in the chest and once in the face.

In spite of her injuries, Carrizales returned fire shattering the suspect's rear window as they fled. Then, bleeding and in pain, she managed to make it back to her patrol car and pursued the suspects, chasing them into Houston.

Her concern to apprehend the suspects in order to remove the threat from the community helped her to maintain the focus required to sustain the pursuit.

During the pursuit, police said Carrizales was telling the dispatcher her every move. She was calm. She relayed that shots were fired. Even though the suspect gunfire continued at her direction she continued to call her pursuit into Houston. The pursuit ended in the area of Woodfair and Club Creek in Houston where a perimeter was established to help detain the suspected shooter supported by other jurisdictions that included Missouri City, Dept of Public Safety (DPS), Sugar Land, and Houston. The other two suspects that took off on foot were later apprehended. All three were members of gangs.

Officer Carrizales was then taken to the Memorial Hermann Hospital.

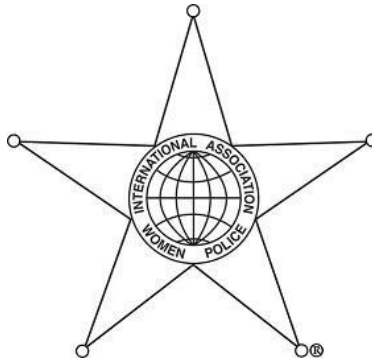
Officer Carrizales is a mother of two and has been a member of the Stafford Police Department since August of 2010. Her law enforcement career did not begin with the Stafford PD as she was a police officer in the United States Marine Corps prior to that.

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR at [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **Warwickshire Detective Receives Excellence in Performance Award at International Ceremony**

An "exemplary, determined and meticulous" Warwickshire, UK, police detective has received the International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 Excellence in Performance Award at a ceremony which was held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Detective Constable Clare Cresswell was named recipient of the prestigious accolade at an awards luncheon attended by police women from around the world.

IAWP President Jane Townsley said: "DC Cresswell has been an inspiration to both police officers and police staff during her 26 years of service. Throughout her career she has been completely dedicated to protecting the communities she serves and her performance has been exemplary. Her willingness to work long hours, often without recompense, demonstrates her dedication. It is the IAWP's view that Clare is absolutely worthy of the highest level of international recognition for her tenacity and dogged determination, sometimes against the odds, to protect people by putting dangerous criminals behind bars."

In June 2003 DC Cresswell received her first of what was to become a series of Chief Constable's Commendations in relation to a spate of house burglaries in South Warwickshire. Using her investigative and intelligence skills she identified two career criminals which resulted in both being charged with 56 Burglary offences across the region.

In February 2005 DC Cresswell received a further commendation in relation to her work on a challenging investigation targeting a paedophile that police believed had



committed serious sexual offences against several young boys. Through dogged detective work DC Cresswell found information relating to a paedophile network. This led to suspects being arrested at premises where a teenage boy was also found. By acting swiftly and determinedly the boy was recovered before any abuse took place.

A man was subsequently charged with rape and indecent assault and was sentenced to life imprisonment. The trial judge praised DC Cresswell for her meticulous and unrelenting determination within the investigation.

Throughout her career DC Cresswell has excelled in investigating organised crime in the Midlands. For example in 2007 she single-handedly identified a large organised crime group in the area which was operating nationally and internationally importing illegal drugs into the UK for onward distribution.

DC Cresswell's tireless work contributed to offenders receiving a total of 26 years for the importation of drugs and firearms were recovered.

DC Cresswell received a further commendation for her role in an operation targeting an organised crime group who were involved in the large scale distribution of drugs and were using physical violence to control their drug markets. She was praised by the Chief Constable for her dedication, commitment and ultimate professionalism in helping the investigation team in charging and convicting members of the group which led to them receiving a total of 27 years imprisonment.

She also played a key role in another operation targeting criminals involved in the large-scale importation of multi tonnes of Class A and Class B Drugs from Spain into the UK. In doing so Clare routinely worked late in the evenings and at weekends, often sacrificing family life in the pursuit of justice.

Five years on and 33 members of this North Warwickshire organised crime group have been found guilty of drug trafficking offences and are serving custodial sentences amounting to over 140 years. These men were said to be untouchable due to the sophisticated way that they carried out their criminal enterprise.

A further operation launched in 2010 targeted a local group of criminals who were using threats and intimidation to maintain control of their criminal enterprise; locals were living in fear of this group at the time. DC Cresswell completed a detailed review of the offenders and identified the main suspects involved. She then worked tirelessly for the next year providing crucial assistance to the investigation team. This resulted in 24 people being convicted and sentenced to more than 100 years imprisonment. Significant amounts of drugs and a firearm were also recovered

during this operation. DC Cresswell again received a Chief Constable's commendation for her work on this enquiry.

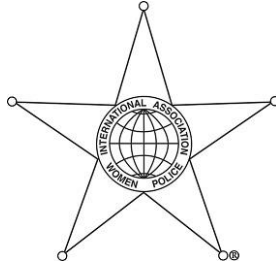
Senior Investigating Officer Detective Chief Inspector Wright said: "For these investigations to be successful you need staff who are highly knowledgeable, who have huge commitment, tenacity, flexibility and dedication. DC Cresswell has been the dedicated intelligence officer on a number of investigations over a number of years without much of a break in between. This means if she is not at work then she has a phone with her at home ready to respond to the needs of Senior Investigating Officers. She has shown all of the necessary attributes, which make her an excellent police officer. I believe she fully deserves to be recognised for her work. Her contribution to protecting our communities from harm from some extremely dangerous criminals cannot be understated."

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR on 07527 847423 or email [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**



## **Press release**

Wednesday, October 1st, 2014

### **York Regional Police Service Constable Receives Medal of Valor at International Ceremony**

York Regional Police Service Constable Netashia McLellan has received a Medal of Valor at International Association of Women Police (IAWP)'s 2014 awards ceremony held in Winnipeg, Canada, today (October 1, 2014).

Constable McLellan, based in Sutton, Ontario, Canada, received the prestigious accolade at the awards luncheon attended by hundreds of police women from around the world.

A police officer with less than three years' service Constable McLellan's bravery on a winter's afternoon in November last year (2013) was astounding.

An ultralight pilot had spent the better part of the day working on his aircraft. He had been trying to deal with an overheating engine issue, and had made several test flights throughout the day to test his repairs. Just after 4pm he left on his last test flight of the day.

As the aircraft rose to approximately 200 feet above the north end of the runway, it experienced a sudden engine failure. The plane banked, lost lift, and plummeted into the tall, dense area of trees beneath it.

As the aircraft crashed through the canopy of the forest, the branches tore the port wing from the fuselage. The rest of the plane continued to the ground, coming to rest between trees and thick underbrush.

Police Constable McLellan was dispatched to the scene, and was the first to arrive. Upon exiting her cruiser, even though at a distance from the crash site, she immediately detected the odour of gasoline. She was guided to the crash scene by another pilot at the airport. Together they pushed their way through the dense brush and trees until they reached the wreckage of the aircraft. As they approached, the smell of gasoline was very strong. The fuel soaked leaves and dirt surrounding the aircraft, stuck to Constable McLellan's boots.

*More...*

The plane was also soaked in gasoline. The fuel tank located behind the pilot had ruptured, and he was soaked in fuel. His left arm was trapped in his safety harness, in such a manner that he could not move to undo his restraint. The plane was canted on the ground at a 45 degree angle, and the weight of the pilot held the harness taught, making it impossible to open.

As fuel continued to leak out, Constable McLellan was advised that this aircraft also had a second fuel tank located aft in the fuselage. This tank was also spilling its fuel. A flight instructor at the airport arrived, and was communicating with YRP communications and speaking to the pilot, who was conscious but disoriented, unable to escape the cockpit.

Constable McLellan was advised that the aircraft was having overheating issues. By now, the area was covered in a substantial amount of fuel, and the four people at the site were standing in a potentially explosive cloud of fumes.

The port wing was dangling in the tree canopy directly above them. Although the pilot had undetermined injuries, Constable McLellan was aware that to leave the pilot there and remain with him was not a viable option, as any heat or spark could potentially cause catastrophic results for all of them.

She made the decision that with the danger present, the only solution was to attempt to remove the pilot so that they could all evacuate to a safe area. Attempts to pry back the cockpit plexi-glass were in vain, as it too had been covered in fuel and was too slippery.

As Constable McLellan lifted the pilot's fuel soaked torso in such a manner to relieve stress on his harness, the man who had initially helped her to find the crash site was able to reach in and cut the harness, freeing the pilot.

Although very sore and injured, and still dazed from his ordeal, he was escorted out to EMS who had now arrived at the scene. Georgina Fire then moved in to mitigate the fire and explosion hazard.

Constable McLellan, still soaked and reeking of fuel followed the ambulance to South Lake Regional Health Centre, where she remained with the pilot. It was only after he had been there a short time that she was able to explain to him what had happened. As he realized the magnitude of what he had survived, and how tragedy had been averted, he became quite shaken. Luckily for the pilot his injuries were relatively minor.

The decisions made by Constable McLellan and the actions taken by she, and the two men from the airport, in the face of a very dangerous situation were done knowing the potential peril in which they had placed themselves, to preserve the life of one man who needed their help in a dire situation. Courage is not taking action without fear; it is taking action in spite of it.

*More...*

The IAWP holds annual award ceremonies to recognise high-levels of commitment and dedication shown by policewomen throughout the world. This year's event was held during the IAWP's annual training conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

The Association has members in 69 countries and represents the interests of women police officers internationally, aiming to strengthen, unite and raise the profile of women law enforcers. At its heart is the recognition that women police officers bring unique and invaluable skills to criminal justice agencies.

The IAWP is committed to further enhancing its members' skills through professional development, training, recognition, mentoring, networking and peer support. For further information about the IAWP, and to find out how to join, please visit the website [www.iawp.org](http://www.iawp.org)

**For further information and interview requests please contact Melanie Hill at Integrity PR at [mel@integritypr.co.uk](mailto:mel@integritypr.co.uk)**