

2009 IAWP Officer of the Year Awards Program

Officer of the Year Award Winners

2009 Officer of the Year

OFFICER OF THE YEAR
Sponsored by Taser
Detective Constable Tracy O'Hara



Tracy has received positive feedback and numerous thanks and gratitude from victims of crime on both her investigative work and care for victims. Tracy's line manager Detective Sergeant Cheryl Rhodes describes her as "experienced, tenacious, diligent and thorough" and a role model and inspiration to women.

Tracy is a visible leader and is not scared to raise and address issues at all levels of the organisation; from encouraging the Crown Prosecution Service to overturn a decision not to prosecute a case, to gaining chief officer support to allow officers and staff to march at the Manchester Gay Pride event. Tracy works tirelessly to promote Merseyside Police and improve the community's confidence in them. In 2008 she was instrumental in the force being ranked the eighth top employer in Stonewall's Work Equality Index. That same year the Pink Paper Reader Awards ranked Merseyside as the third best police force.



IAWP 2009 Officer of the Year Presentation. Pictured are Debbie Friedl IAWP Executive Director, Tracy O'Hara Awardee, and Jane Townsley IAWP President.
Photograph courtesy of Kristina Kolerich, IAWP 2009 Seattle

IAWP Leadership Award

MARY JO BLAHOWSKI LEADERSHIP Superintendent Alison Roden

Different examples illustrate the depth and breadth of her exceptional leadership. First is the nationally acclaimed preparation of Kent Police Tactical Firearms Unit for the NPIA inspection and accreditation process, which includes a Threat and Risk Assessment, which now defines the national standard. Alison, as head of the unit, earned the respect and admiration of her team, in what is often a very male dominated working environment, and led them through the inspection. When she left the unit she was presented with a gift inscribed with: "Where you lead, we will follow."

The most recent example is the drive, enthusiasm and leadership she has shown in the development of performance management and Citizen Focus within Protective Services. In a few short months Alison has led and inspired her team to generate solutions, and deliver outcomes that 'set the pace' in delivery of Protective Services. While doing so she supported three officers in her team through promotion boards and inspired others to progress.



IAWP 2009 Community Service Award

COMMUNITY SERVICE Special Constable Lily Laing

Colleagues have described Lothian and Borders Police Special Constable Lily Laing as "dedicated and selfless". She has devoted more than twenty years of her life to helping others of all ages in the community. Lily became a special constable in 1997 and now devotes between 400 and 500 hours of her own time each year to her role. During the G8 Summit she took time off from her own job to provide extra divisional cover for 11 days. Lily has been involved in numerous initiatives to deliver community safety and good citizenship messages. From schemes to educate school children to early intervention projects with local youths, to helping youngsters completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards. She also set up an initiative to bring young people on The Prince's Trust programme together with elderly people to break down pre-conceived perceptions on both parts, her all in the name of public service and customer focus.



IAWP 2009 Mentoring Award

MENTORING

Chief Inspector Vicky Skeels

She makes time to help others both inside and outside of the police service. Vicky acts as a professional mentor to students at Anglia Ruskin University who are interested in a career in the criminal justice system. She facilitates placements, gives them opportunities to learn and opens their eyes to the wealth of job options available to them. Vicky has also officially and unofficially mentored many police women and staff across Cambridgeshire Constabulary. As colleague Sergeant Karen Clegg said: "I trust her explicitly to be fair and honest and to help me look at things from all angles." Vicky's development and mentoring style has been described by colleagues as "supportive, warm and caring, but also down to earth and thought provoking". However, she is aware of the need to not only support individuals, offering them options and considerations, but also to remain focused on the needs of the organisation to get the best resolution. This is something she puts into practice in a formal capacity when she acts as a mediator to help resolve internal and external grievances.



IAWP 2009 Excellence in Performance

EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMANCE

Constable Lisa Daly

Lisa is held in very high regard by everyone at the Foyle area command unit where she works in the crime team. Her arrest rate is three times higher than her crime team colleagues, and ten times higher than a standard officer working in the area. As a result on average she attends court once every four days where her professionalism is praised by both local prosecutors and defence solicitors alike.

Lisa was responsible for arresting 23 out of 25 of the worst criminals identified in the area as part of an anti-crime campaign. Her pursuit of these career criminals has been unrelenting making her a legend amongst the local criminal fraternity.

A senior prison officer relayed an incident which happened in Maghaberry Prison where a group of Londonderry criminals had been heard talking about who had put them inside. "Lisa Daly put me in," said the first, "yeah she put me in too," said another. A shout was heard across the landing: "Yeah she did me too." At that point the whole wing broke out in a chorus of "Lisa Daly, Lisa Daly, Lisa Daly".

Unfortunately this fame has come at some personal cost. There are very clear and very close links between the terrorist organisations and organised crime/criminals. Lisa, who has been an officer for ten years, has been under personal threat from a terrorist organisation for the past year. This threat would be enough to put most police officers off, but Lisa has been undaunted, if anything she has doubled her efforts in targeting criminals.

IAWP 2009 Medal of Valor

MEDAL OF VALOR

Sue Storey

On the 22nd day of November 2005 Provincial Constable Sue Storey and Provincial Constable Ryan Weir of the City of Kawartha Lakes OPP received an anonymous tip that a suspect was in violation of his release conditions by having firearms in his possession. Provincial Constable Storey went into the suspect's apartment while her partner was at another apartment talking with a witness.

The suspect attempted to stab Provincial Constable Storey in the neck with the knife as he yelled at her that he was not going back to jail. Provincial Constable Storey was able to hold the knife off of her neck, using her hands. The suspect also attempted to remove Provincial Constable Storey's pistol from her holster. Provincial Constable Storey believed that the suspect was going to kill her and pleaded to him indicating that she had young children. Once the suspect realized that he was not able to disarm Provincial Constable Storey, he began punching her in the throat, in the area of her larynx. It was at that time, that Provincial Constable Storey was able to remove her left hand from her holster that was securing her pistol and activate the emergency button on her portable radio. Provincial Constable Storey was also able to gain control of the knife and plunge it into the suspect's upper abdomen. The suspect took her by the left shoulder and dragged her to the kitchen area where he obtained a second knife. The suspect again attempted to stab Provincial Constable Storey. When Provincial Constable Weir entered the apartment he observed Provincial Constable Storey laying on the ground with the suspect overtop of her. Provincial Constable Weir arrested the suspect for the attempt murder of Provincial Constable Sue Storey.



2009 IAWP Medal of Valor Awards Presented to Two Families of Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

Photograph courtesy of Kristina Kolerich, IAWP 2009 Seattle

MEDAL OF VALOR

Kristine Fairbanks

End of Watch- September 20, 2008

The U.S. Forest Service lost a valued member of their organization when Law Enforcement Officer Kris Fairbanks was fatally shot on Saturday, September 20, 2008. Officer Fairbanks is the sixth officer and first female officer to be killed in the line of duty for the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Law Enforcement and Investigations.

Kris had made a vehicle stop on a suspicious vehicle near Dungeness Forks Campground on the Olympic National Forest, south of Sequim, Washington. The suspect shot and killed Kris and later killed a local citizen. When confronted by Clallam County (WA) Deputies several hours later at a local convenience store the suspect was shot and killed. Kris was more than just a Forest Service employee and law enforcement officer. She was active in her local community, including her church and her daughter's 4-H Happy Tails club, a canine club for the kids. The children learned a lot about themselves and being responsible for their pet. They also learned how to live life from Kris. The energy Kris displayed in her professional life ran into her personal life. And it was contagious. Kris was their rooting section and second Mom in some instances. They learned how to be a better person because of Kris. Kris was highly respected and loved by everyone. For all the Forest Service and National Park Service co-workers, local citizens, members of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies and others who worked closely with her, the void Kris leaves is huge. Kris is survived by her husband Brian, a Fish and Wildlife Officer with the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and her daughter, Whitney. Her father, brother, and numerous friends and family also survive her.



MEDAL OF VALOR

Anne Jackson

End of Watch-September 2nd, 2008

Skagit County (WA) Sheriff's Deputy Anne Jackson, 40, was described by one of her law enforcement colleagues as "the champion of the underdog." Her law enforcement career began as the department's first animal control officer. She gained great satisfaction rescuing abused and neglected pets.

A few years later, though, she wanted to help victimized people and became a patrol deputy. Jackson had earned a reputation among Skagit County law enforcement for her intolerance for those who take advantage of others. Tragically, though, her valued service to her community ended on the afternoon of September 2, 2008. On September 2nd 2008 Deputy Jackson responded to a Trespassing complaint in the Alger area of Skagit County. Deputy Jackson had taken a personal interest in the suspect and his family and had several previous contacts and conversations with them, including the two days before this incident. Deputy Jackson then responded to the original complainant's home regarding the trespassing issue. As she approached the house to obtain a statement, she came under fire from the suspect. Though hit several times Deputy Jackson fought back and was able to return fire in an attempt to stop the suspect. The suspect went on to kill five other people and wounding four, including a Washington State Trooper, before surrendering. Deputy Jackson gave her life that day trying to protect the citizens of Skagit County.



IAWP 2009 Civilian Achievement

Judy Broomfield's career with the Toronto Police Service spans more than thirty years. It was apparent early on that Judy had something special to offer the Toronto Police Service and the community it served. Through each successive endeavor she grew in knowledge, confidence and ability and assumed ever increasing leadership roles. In 1996, her expertise and leadership was recognized when she was promoted to the newly created position of 9-1-1 Coordinator. There were many times when



Judy stood alone, a single voice for public safety, pilloried in meeting after meeting for obstructing progress and demanding that technological advancements are not completed in conjunction with an abdication of societal responsibility. In recognition of her outstanding commitment and leadership, Judy was given standing to appear before the CRTC Commissioners at hearings in Gatineau in September 2004. The respect she earned through continued excellence and leadership allowed for her call to arms to be more readily answered. Her professionalism and achievements are not built upon a rush to battle, rather an intelligent pursuit of cooperation and understanding for mutual respect and problem solving.