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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following names, for publication in *The London Gazette*, of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery!

QUEENS' COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

Kevin Charles BALCOMBE, Constable, West Mercia Constabulary.

For services in arresting a gunman.

Constable Balcombe was on patrol when he was informed by radio of the theft of two weapons from a gun shop. Shortly afterwards, he saw a man carrying a bin bag who was acting suspiciously. He approached the man and as he asked to look in the bag he caught sight of a gun barrel. The suspect pulled out a single barrelled shot gun and pointed it at the Constable's abdomen saying "Get away from me, it's loaded". Constable Balcombe stood his ground and, as the suspect backed away into the doorway of a restaurant, the Constable radioed to alert colleagues.

In order to safeguard the public, Constable Balcombe then managed to gain access to the restaurant for himself and the gunman. Once inside, he ordered the staff to move to the kitchen for safety. He then engaged the gunman in conversation to calm him and protect the staff in the kitchen, during which time a second weapon from the bin bag was handed by the gunman to Constable Balcombe. He placed it on the floor in order not to alarm the gunman.

The gunman, who had already attempted to kill himself in a previous incident, continued to behave irrationally. After about six hours sitting with the gunman in the restaurant—during which time Constable Balcombe declined the assistance of colleagues as he believed it would have encouraged the gunman to use his weapon against himself or those trapped in the kitchen,—the Constable saw the opportunity to grab the shot gun. He did this and then arrested the gunman.

Peter Lewis BENTALL, Constable, North Yorkshire Police

For services in arresting two shoplifters.

While off duty Constable Bentall noticed a male and female shoplifting in a supermarket. He informed store security and they followed the two suspects to their van. Constable Bentall

approached the van, and as he showed his warrant card the driver (female) drove forward and then stopped. The male shoplifter then got into the driver's seat and drove the van straight at Constable Bentall who was thrown onto the bonnet: he managed to grab hold of the wiper blade and roof rack stopping himself from falling off as the van continued to move forward. Constable Bentall shouted continuously at the driver to stop. The driver of the van then tried to force Constable Bentall off the bonnet by continually braking hard then accelerating and swerving from side to side. The van left the supermarket car park with Constable Bentall still holding on and sped off down the road reaching speeds of up to 40 mph. After 3 to 4 miles the driver stopped the van and Constable Bentall managed to reach through the driver's open window and grab the ignition keys. There followed a struggle as Constable Bentall tried to arrest the driver. A passer-by assisted until other police officers arrived.

Peter Ronald HIAM, Constable, Wiltshire Constabulary

For services in arresting a man armed with a shotgun who was firing indiscriminately.

In the late evening, on becoming aware that a gunman was firing a shotgun indiscriminately in the street, PC Hiam left his Police Station and followed the gunman on foot, staying within 20-25 paces, close enough to warn members of the public of the danger. After a while, during which time he fired six or so more indiscriminate shots, the gunman became aware of PC Hiam's presence when the officer stepped into the road to call out a warning to a member of the public. The gunman turned and faced PC Hiam. There followed a short exchange of words ending with the gunman threatening to "Blow the PC away" and at the same time, he levelled the shotgun to the right of the officer. The gunman then turned and walked away, with PC Hiam continuing to follow at a distance. After discharging the shotgun again the gunman stopped, seemingly to reload. Seeing this PC Hiam rushed the gunman and, managed to grab the barrel and pull the gun from his grasp. The gunman was then overpowered and arrested.

Philip John OWEN, Constable, Ministry of Defence Police

For services in arresting a man armed with a crossbow.

Constable Owen and a colleague were called to a disturbance where a man had been threatening residents with a crossbow and had already assaulted several people.

On arrival the police officers saw a man, who had sustained head injuries, lying on the ground. After requesting an ambulance they returned to their police van to move further down the street to the