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## Honours and Awards

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### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1

6 January 2009

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the Queen's Gallantry Medal and for the publication in *The London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery.

#### Queen's Gallantry Medal

David Ian DUGUID, Civilian.

*For his actions in disarming a gunman in Yemen.*

On 23 June 2007, David Duguid was on assignment at an airstrip in Yemen providing security cover for a client. The airfield was protected by Yemeni military forces and he was accompanied by a driver and armed escort. He himself was unarmed. As the aircraft carrying his client landed, he moved forward towards the aircraft. As he did so, he felt a pain in his forearm and heard the sound of gunfire. He had been shot. He took cover and saw a Yemeni soldier firing his AK 47 assault rifle. A number of people were on the ground having been hit by gunfire. The gunman was firing at opportune targets as well as at the aircraft. As the gunman moved behind the far side of the aircraft, Duguid broke cover and moved towards him in the hope of overpowering him. Unfortunately, he was spotted and had to take cover again. The gunman then started to fire at the casualties lying on the ground so he again broke cover to draw his fire. As the gunman focussed on Duguid the armed escort shot and wounded the gunman, enabling Duguid to charge forward and overpower him. Having incapacitated the gunman, and

ignoring the pain from his wounds, he then began to help the other casualties. Despite the threat from leaking aviation fuel, he set up a triage and applied life-saving procedures to the most seriously injured. He then arranged evacuation to a hospital and applied further medical treatment throughout the journey. On arrival at the hospital he ensured that the right steps were taken with regard to the wounded. One man died in this incident.

Kevin George FRANCIS, Civilian.

*For his actions in rescuing a pilot from a crashed aircraft.*

On 6 September Kevin Francis was a passenger in an aircraft which crashed on take off. The aircraft left the runway at high speed and still at full power. The aircraft cart wheeled through the air before hitting the ground and smashing through a line of trees. The aircraft broke up on impact and there was an explosive ball which extended over 100 feet into the air. The cockpit was enveloped in burning fuel and dense black acrid smoke and fumes filled the cockpit. In addition to the smoke, the heat was intense, it was difficult to breathe and almost impossible to see. Francis used the emergency knife to cut a hole in the cockpit canopy and this allowed some smoke to escape. He then realised that the pilot was slumped in his seat. He was moving but did not respond to any calls. Francis managed to squeeze out of the broken canopy. Flames were all around but fortunately were concentrated to the rear and right of the cockpit. He ran to the front of the aircraft and deployed the emergency canopy jettison mechanism which fired the canopy clear of the burning aircraft. He then climbed on to the canopy rail and released the pilot from his harness and pulled him clear. Fire and rescue crews arrived on the scene shortly afterwards.