



P.O. Box 128
Longview, WA 98632-7080
www.mylongview.com

Robert Huhta
Chief of Police

John Reeves
Captain

Branden McNew
Captain

Mary Chennault
Administrative Manager

To: Awards Panel, Western States Hostage Negotiators' Association

From: Captain Branden McNew, Lower Columbia SWAT Crisis Negotiations Team Commander

Date: 03/31/2022

RE: Corporal Danielle Jenkins WSHNA Distinguished Service Award Nomination

On behalf of the Lower Columbia Crisis Negotiations Team and the City of Longview Police Department, please accept this nomination for Corporal Danielle Jenkins for the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award for her work in the incident detailed below.

During the course of the two weeks preceding July 21st, 2021, a subject with increasingly erratic and violent behavior had numerous contacts with local law enforcement. On July 21st, 2021, the subject had multiple contacts with law enforcement leading up to an incident in the afternoon where he violently assaulted several officers that were attempting to arrest him. During that encounter, the subject was able to fight his way back to a vehicle and flee. While he was fleeing, one of our officers was struck by his vehicle causing minor injuries. The suspect could not be apprehended and drove at a very high rate of speed into neighboring Clark County. He continued to call 911 in Clark and Cowlitz through the night but he could not be located and would not surrender.

There was documented intel discovered during this investigation that the subject was homicidal, making threats to kill his ex-wife and ex sister-in-law if he could locate them. He was also expressing suicidal ideations. The subject had demonstrated a willingness to commit violence towards police, a complete disregard for the safety of the general public, and his behavior was becoming increasingly and dangerously violent.

On the morning of July 22nd, the subject again called 911. He was driving a vehicle at an unknown location. He was very anxious, paranoid, and erratic on the phone. During that call to 911, patrol officers were searching the city for the subject. The command decision was made to transfer the 911 call to CPL Danielle Jenkins for crisis negotiations. As the team leader for the Lower Columbia Crisis Negotiations Team, the hope was for a strategic de-escalation towards a peaceful surrender.



P.O. Box 128
Longview, WA 98632-7080
www.mylongview.com

Robert Huhta
Chief of Police

John Reeves
Captain

Branden McNew
Captain

Mary Chennault
Administrative Manager

CPL Jenkins worked over the course of the next hour to build a rapport with the subject who continued to drive his car in an unknown place. She used a great deal of patience while he cycled through very tumultuous emotional swings. She worked in a very deliberate manner to keep the subject on the phone by active listening, reflective responses, and genuine compassion. Most of all, she made the subject understand that his safety was among our highest priority. This was especially crucial given that she could tell from the road noise and the subject's comments that he was travelling on a highway where other motorists were present.

After over an hour on the phone, CPL Jenkins talked the subject through his safe arrival at the Longview Police Department. This was an extraordinary feat considering his paranoia and behaviors. She talked him through his safe and unarmed exit from the vehicle and into the Longview Police Department lobby.

Once in the lobby, the subject re-escalated at the sight of uniformed officers. However, the patrol supervisor had used the hour-long negotiation with CPL Jenkins to develop a plan for safely taking the subject into custody. After a stand-off in the Longview Police Department lobby, the subject was taken into custody.

It's difficult to quantify the value of the work done CPL Jenkins during this incident. There were so many alternative outcomes to this incident that could have resulted in serious injury or death to the suspect, officers, and members of our community. The peaceful outcome of today's incident is a direct result of her efforts. I'm recommending Corporal Jenkins be considered for the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award. Cpl Jenkins exemplified herself by utilizing negotiation skills to safely resolve an exceptionally difficult and dangerous event.

Sincerely,

B. McNew #3L3

Captain Branden McNew

Team Commander, Lower Columbia Crisis Negotiation Team

Officer Adam Surface WSHNA Member
Negotiator, Lower Columbia Crisis Negotiation Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Surface".

Longview Police Department • 1351 Hudson Street • Longview, WA 98632 • 360.442.5800 • Fax 360.442.5963