



Clackamas County Sheriff's Office CNT



WSHNA Awards Panel:

Please accept this nomination for the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award. On October 4th, 2021, at approximately 1051 hours, Sergeant Mike Smith, a Clackamas County Crisis Negotiations Team member, responded to a shots fired call in the City of Molalla. The call began as a medical call but rapidly evolved when a subject inside the house started firing a high-powered rifle from within a residence. The subject had taken aim at responding law enforcement and innocent civilians.

Sgt. Smith arrived and found an officer had established contact with the subject via phone. The officer was doing well, but Sgt. Smith recognized that the officer needed help furthering the conversation. Sgt. Smith took over negotiations, and after engaging the suspect in conversation, Sgt. Smith was able to negotiate a surrender.

As the subject exited his residence, he took specific actions that prompted an officer-involved shooting. As the shooting occurred, the subject was able to retreat back inside his house and was unharmed. Sgt. Smith got back online with the subject and again engaged him in conversation. The subject's willingness to continue communication was directly related to Sgt. Smith's ability to create and maintain rapport with the subject throughout the negotiation. For a second time, Sgt. Smith was able to negotiate a peaceful surrender.

As we can all imagine, this was not an easy situation to navigate. Sgt. Smith maintained his composure, fell back to his training, and worked through an extremely volatile situation. Sgt. Smith should be commended for his quick actions and thoughtful negotiation skills, which helped bring a peaceful resolution to this chaotic event.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Lt. Nate Hulsey
CNT Team Commander

Detective Bill Rowlands
CNT Team Member