



# POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The IACP is proud to once again partner with Target to recognize exemplary performance in professional policing from law enforcement agencies around the globe. The IACP/Target Police Officer of the Year Award recognizes the daily sacrifices made and honors the heroic achievements of law enforcement's finest. Four remarkable events were selected from numerous applications and were recognized at this year's IACP Foundation Gala at the 2017 IACP Annual Conference and Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**The IACP and Target are proud to announce that two events were deserving of this year's IACP/Target Police Officer of the Year Award.**



**Lieutenant Scott Smith** of the Orlando, Florida, Police Department, for his heroic leadership during the response to the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida on June 12, 2016.



**Special Agent David Bailey** and **Special Agent Crystal Griner** of the United States Capitol Police, Washington D.C. and **Officer Nicole Battaglia**, **Officer Alexander Jensen**, and **Officer Kevin Jobe** of the Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department, for their quick thinking and heroic actions during a shooting in Alexandria, Virginia during a practice for the annual Congressional Charity Baseball Game on June 14, 2017.

The IACP and Target commends all the finalists for their bravery, dedication, and commitment to keeping communities safer.

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## POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**OFFICER  
MARTIN HERNANDEZ**

CHICAGO POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

On May 12, 2017, Chicago, Illinois, Police Officers Martin Hernandez and Joel Lopez were working as plainclothes tactical officers in the Harrison district on Chicago's west side, an area that has seen some of Chicago's worst violence. On this day, Officers Hernandez and Lopez were patrolling an area known for narcotics and gang-related violence.

The officers observed what looked like a drug transaction and went to investigate. As the officers approached, a female suspect began to flee on foot. The woman – a felon on bond for aggravated assault of a police officer three months earlier – turned during the pursuit and began shooting at the officers. Officer Hernandez was struck in the chest but he was wearing his bulletproof vest which saved him

from serious harm. Despite being struck, Officer Hernandez began to return fire and was joined by Officer Lopez. The suspect was wounded in the exchange and a handgun was recovered from the scene. Officer Hernandez then called for emergency medical services for the suspect and rendered aid until they arrived. The suspect was treated at a local hospital and later arrested for attempted murder. Officers Hernandez and Lopez were both taken to the hospital for observation and released later that evening. Both have returned to their duties in the Harrison district.



**LIEUTENANT  
SCOTT SMITH**

ORLANDO POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

In the early morning hours of June 12, 2016, a gunman entered Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where more than 300 patrons were enjoying "Latin Night." The shooter immediately opened fire on patrons and employees within the club with a high capacity semi-automatic rifle. A uniformed, off-duty police officer who was working as security at the time engaged the suspect and radioed for assistance. Lieutenant Scott Smith was one of the Watch Commanders that morning and among the first officers to arrive on scene. He organized and led a team to enter the club to engage the shooter. Lieutenant Smith shot at the suspect, allowing responding officers to rescue patrons and employees who were still inside of the club, some of whom were critically injured. As Lieutenant Smith organized the officers within the club and directed the

deployment of SWAT operators responding to help, the gunman held hostages in the bathroom. The gunman began calling 911 to pledge his allegiance to ISIS and indicate that he had explosives. Following protocol, Lieutenant Smith initiated a full SWAT stand down and focused on securing the building and rescuing as many of the injured as possible.

After a few tense hours, the gunman raised the stakes – threatening to strap bomb vests to hostages to blow up the entire building. Lieutenant Smith coordinated the breach of the building which saved additional hostages and flushed out the gunman, who immediately started firing at the SWAT operators. SWAT team members, including Lieutenant Smith, returned fire, killing the suspect. The incident is one of the deadliest mass shootings by one individual in the U.S. and claimed the lives of 49 people in addition to wounding 58 others.

# POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS



**TECHNICAL LIEUTENANT  
PETER R. MCLAIN**

NEW YORK  
STATE POLICE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK



**TECHNICAL SERGEANT  
BRIAN D. RUMRILL**

NEW YORK  
STATE POLICE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK

On Sunday morning, December 11, 2016, two college students embarked on a one-day hike to the summit of Algonquin Mountain, New York's second highest mountain. The day started clear but quickly changed after they reached the summit. As they attempted to descend the mountain, the couple became enveloped in a thick, snowy fog. They became disoriented, left the marked trail, and fell approximately 100 feet down the back side of the mountain – landing on top of a group of snow covered evergreen trees. Unable to make their way back to the trail, they built a makeshift shelter and waited to be rescued. New York State Forest Rangers and New York State Police personnel began search efforts that evening and continued into Monday but weather challenges precluded the use of helicopters at the time. By Tuesday morning, the weather had improved marginally so state police helicopters were dispatched despite high winds and low clouds. At approximately 11:00 a.m., the couple heard the helicopter piloted by Technical Lieutenant Peter R. McLain and Technical Sergeant Brian D. Rumrill, with Forest Ranger Ian Kerr as Crew Chief / Hoist Operator, and attempted to attract the attention of the aircrew. Their calls were heard by rangers on the ground who were able to locate the hikers.

For the next two hours, the helicopter crew made more than a dozen attempts to position the aircraft for a hoist rescue but cloud cover and winds forced them to retreat as fuel was running low. Technical Lieutenant McLain and Technical Sergeant Rumrill saw a break in the clouds approaching and took flight. With only a 45 to 60 second window, they were able to hoist both hikers successfully into the helicopter. After flying the hikers to a local hospital, the aircrew then returned to the mountain to pick up two rangers.



**SPECIAL AGENT  
DAVID BAILEY**

UNITED STATES  
CAPITOL POLICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



**SPECIAL AGENT  
CRYSTAL GRINER**

UNITED STATES  
CAPITOL POLICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

On the morning of June 14, 2017, Special Agent Crystal Griner and Special Agent David Bailey of the United States Capitol Police were serving as Dignitary Protection Division Agents for U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip Steve Scalise. Congressman Scalise and 20 others including numerous Republican members of Congress, were practicing for the annual Congressional Charity Baseball Game at a baseball field in Alexandria, Virginia. During their practice, a man emerged from the parking lot and began opening fire on the players. The special agents immediately radioed for assistance and engaged the suspect.

Within three minutes of the first call, Officer Kevin Jobe, Officer Nicole Battaglia, and Officer Alexander Jensen of the Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department arrived on the scene to provide support. While Officer Jobe initially attempted to engage the suspect, Officer Battaglia ran toward the shooter. The shooter's attention was diverted to Officer Battaglia, who took cover behind a parked vehicle as she was repeatedly fired upon. This allowed Officer Jensen to move into position and engage the suspect, which permitted Officer Jobe and Special Agent Bailey to engage the suspect as he moved behind home plate. By working together, Officers Jensen, Jobe, and Special Agent Bailey were able to take the gunman down, secure the baseball field, and allow medical personnel to help the injured.

In the aftermath, five people were injured including Congressman Scalise, who was critically wounded. Lobbyist Matt Mika was shot in the chest and staffer Zachary Barth was shot in the leg. Special Agent Griner was shot in the leg but continued to return fire to stop the suspect as she maintained cover. Special Agent Bailey also engaged the shooter by returning fire from near first base and was injured by shell fragments to his ankle.



**OFFICER  
NICOLE BATTAGLIA**

ALEXANDRIA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



**OFFICER  
ALEXANDER JENSEN**

ALEXANDRIA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



**OFFICER  
KEVIN JOBE**

ALEXANDRIA POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA