

AIRPORTS

# Acts of Bravery

Airport Police Officers recognized by City Council for acts beyond the call of duty and for success in Police and Fire Games.

Story by Sgt. Belinda Nettles, Airport Police; Photo by Officer Richard Shrode, Airport Police.

Several Airport Police officers were recognized for tremendous acts of bravery beyond the call of duty in 2009 at LAX and while off duty and for winning the gold and bronze medals in the sport of basketball earlier this year at the Police and Fire games in Tucson, Ariz. Certificates of appreciation and recognition were presented to the officers during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Los Angeles City Council July 16.

The officers were recognized by Councilman Bill Rosendahl and Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno for their various acts of bravery, acts beyond the call of duty and their success in the sport. Officers Francis Smith, Shawn Smith and Burt Davis were recognized for their bravery in convincing a man to remove and step away from a backpack that he said had a bomb in it that he would detonate. Officer Lauren Peaks rescued a suicidal woman from a bridge ledge as she attempted to jump twice. Officer Alvin Co was recognized for the number of arrests made last year for Driving Under the Influence. Officer Tesfa McKinley, while off duty, observed a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy in a fight with a suspect and assisted the deputy with taking the suspect into custody.

The Police and Fire Games Basketball team earned the gold medal in the over-35 division and the bronze medal in the 3-on-3 games held in Tucson this year. Sgt. Harold Evans, Detective Julius Levy, and Officers Barry Wilds, Havon McLeod and Oscar Gatewood were acknowledged for their contribution and success in winning.

Councilman Bill Rosendahl commended the officers for the fine work they do at LAX while keeping the public safe. Chief Centeno said that he was "proud to stand before the City Council in recognition of the LAX officers who are a representation of the front line of protection at LAX."

In attendance along with Chief Centeno were Lieutenants Edward Trahan and Joaquin Mendez, Sergeants Loretta Jones and Belinda Nettles, and Officers Dawn Davis and Ryan Robinson.



At center, from left: Airport Police Chief George R. Centeno and Councilman Bill Rosendahl. Overall, from left: Airport Police Officers Havon McLeod, Oscar Gatewood, Francis Smith, Lauren Peaks, Tesfa McKinley and Alvin Co.



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