

Officer Harlan Taylor #36463

On the early morning of April 24, 2018, Officer Harlan Taylor, assigned to Southeast Area, working routine patrol when he was the first unit to respond to a "Fireman Needs Help" call at a residence. Upon arrival, Officer Taylor was advised by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel they had extinguished a fire when the suspect exited the house and shot two victims in front of the location. LAFD personnel advised Officer Taylor they may have been fired upon by the suspect. At the time of the shooting firefighters outside the residence fled on foot and took cover behind vehicles. Firefighters inside the house ran out the rear door and down the street to find cover from the gunfire.

As the senior officer, Officer Taylor took charge of the scene and broadcast a request for additional units to respond. Officer Taylor advised there was an active shooter at the location with two victims down. As additional units arrived, Officer Taylor directed them to take positions of cover around the target location.

Officer Taylor observed a female victim lying on the sidewalk in front of the location, but did not observe a second victim. Officer Taylor put together two groups of four officers in a diamond formation and positioned them to cover the sides of the residence. The two groups bounded to their respective positions while using cover. Officer Taylor observed the suspect inside the residence through the open front door. The suspect refused orders to exit the residence.

Officer Taylor formulated a plan to rescue the female victim. Officer Taylor advised officers to avoid any contagious fire should the suspect re-appear with a firearm or pose some other deadly threat to the officers. With the help of another officer, Officer Taylor left his position of cover and recovered the victim from the sidewalk. Officer Taylor grabbed the victim's leg while his partner grabbed her arms and dragged her behind a parked vehicle, where Officer Taylor could assess the victim's condition. Unfortunately, when Officer Taylor arrived at the position of cover, he determined the victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her head and was deceased.

Officer Taylor determined at this point the second victim was the suspect. The suspect started the fire inside the residence, shot his mother in front of the firefighters, then shot himself in the chest. The suspect surrendered without incident, was arrested for murder, and transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was listed in serious condition. The call was resolved without force or further injury to any firefighters, police personnel, or members of the community.

Officer Taylor is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Harlan Taylor

Officer Andrew Cervantes #42925

On the early morning of April 24, 2018, Officer Andrew Cervantes, assigned to Southeast Area, working routine patrol when he was the first unit to respond to a “Fireman Needs Help” call at a residence. Upon arrival, Officer Cervantes was advised by Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel they had extinguished a fire when the suspect exited the house and shot two victims in front of the location. LAFD personnel advised Officer Cervantes they may have been fired upon by the suspect. At the time of the shooting firefighters outside the residence fled on foot and took cover behind vehicles. Firefighters inside the house ran out the rear door and down the street to find cover from the gunfire.

Officer Cervantes took charge of the scene and broadcast a request for additional units to respond. Officer Cervantes advised there was an active shooter at the location with two victims down. As additional units arrived, Officer Cervantes directed them to take positions of cover around the target location.

Officer Cervantes observed a female victim lying on the sidewalk in front of the location, but did not observe a second victim. Officer Cervantes put together two groups of four officers in a diamond formation and positioned them to cover the sides of the residence. The two groups bounded to their respective positions while using cover. Officer Cervantes observed the suspect inside the residence through the open front door. The suspect refused orders to exit the residence.

Officer Cervantes formulated a plan to rescue the female victim. Officer Cervantes advised officers to avoid any contagious fire should the suspect re-appear with a firearm or pose some other deadly threat to the officers. Officer Cervantes was in the lead with a shotgun and provided cover to the two officers who grabbed the victim’s arms and dragged her behind a parked vehicle, where they could assess the victim’s condition. Unfortunately, when Officer Cervantes arrived at the position of cover he determined the victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her head and was deceased.

Officer Cervantes determined at this point the second victim was the suspect. The suspect started the fire inside the residence, shot his mother in front of the firefighters, then shot himself in the chest. The suspect surrendered without incident, was arrested for murder, and transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was listed in serious condition. The call was resolved without force or further injury to any firefighters, police personnel, or members of the community.

Officer Cervantes is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Andrew Cervantes

Sergeant Vincent Rojas #38527

On the early morning of April 24, 2018, Sergeant Vincent Rojas, assigned to Southeast Area, working routine patrol when he responded to a "Fireman Needs Help" call at a residence. Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel had extinguished a fire when the suspect exited the house and shot two victims in front of the location. LAFD personnel advised the first officers to arrive they may have been fired upon by the suspect. At the time of the shooting firefighters outside the residence fled on foot and took cover behind vehicles. Firefighters inside the house ran out the rear door and down the street to find cover from the gunfire.

A senior officer took charge of the scene and broadcast a request for additional units to respond. The officer advised there was an active shooter at the location with two victims down. As additional units arrived, the senior officer directed them to take positions of cover around the target location.

The senior officer observed a female victim lying on the sidewalk in front of the location, but did not observe a second victim. The senior officer put together two groups of four officers in a diamond formation and positioned them to cover the sides of the residence. The two groups bounded to their respective positions while using cover.

Sergeant Rojas arrived at the scene and assisted the two groups of officers by providing supervisor oversight of their tactics. Sergeant Rojas and a senior officer developed a plan to attempt a rescue of the female victim. Sergeant Rojas observed the suspect inside the residence through the open front door. The suspect refused orders to exit the residence.

Sergeant Rojas formulated a plan to rescue the female victim. Sergeant Rojas advised officers to avoid any contagious fire should the suspect re-appear with a firearm or pose some other deadly threat to the officers. Officers left their position of cover and recovered the victim from the sidewalk, dragging her behind a parked vehicle where they could assess her condition. Unfortunately, when officers arrived at the position of cover, Sergeant Rojas determined the victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her head and was deceased.

Sergeant Rojas determined at this point the second victim was the suspect. The suspect started the fire inside the residence, shot his mother in front of the firefighters, then shot himself in the chest. The suspect surrendered without incident, was arrested for murder, and transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was listed in serious condition. The call was resolved without force or further injury to any firefighters, police personnel, or members of the community.

Sergeant Rojas is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication displayed in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Sergeant Vincent Rojas

Officer Christopher Moorhead #42858

On the early morning of April 24, 2018, Officer Christopher Moorhead, assigned to Southeast Area, working routine patrol when he responded to a “Fireman Needs Help” call at a residence. Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) personnel had extinguished a fire when the suspect exited the house and shot two victims in front of the location. LAFD personnel advised the first officers to arrive they may have been fired upon by the suspect. At the time of the shooting firefighters outside the residence fled on foot and took cover behind vehicles. Firefighters inside the house ran out the rear door and down the street to find cover from the gunfire.

A senior officer took charge of the scene and broadcast a request for additional units to respond. The officer advised there was an active shooter at the location with two victims down. As additional units arrived, the senior officer directed them to take positions of cover around the target location.

The senior officer observed a female victim lying on the sidewalk in front of the location, but did not observe a second victim. The senior officer put together two groups of four officers in a diamond formation and positioned them to cover the sides of the residence. The two groups bounded to their respective positions while using cover. Officer Moorhead observed the suspect inside the residence through the open front door. The suspect refused orders to exit the residence.

Officer Moorhead formulated a plan to rescue the female victim. Officer Moorhead advised officers to avoid any contagious fire should the suspect re-appear with a firearm or pose some other deadly threat to the officers. With the help of another officer, Officer Moorhead left his position of cover and recovered the victim from the sidewalk. Officer Moorhead grabbed the victim’s arms while his partner grabbed the legs and dragged her behind a parked vehicle, where he could assess the victim’s condition. Unfortunately, when Officer Moorhead arrived at the position of cover, he determined the victim had sustained multiple gunshot wounds to her head and was deceased.

Officer Moorhead determined at this point the second victim was the suspect. The suspect started the fire inside the residence and shot his mother in front of the firefighters and then shot himself in the chest. The suspect surrendered without incident, was arrested for murder, and transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was listed in serious condition. The call was resolved without force or further injury to any firefighters, police personnel, or members of the community.

Officer Moorhead is commended for his unflinching courage, unwavering commitment to duty, outstanding tactical expertise and communication in an extremely dangerous situation. For his valiant actions in the highest traditions of law enforcement and the Los Angeles Police Department, the Medal of Valor is bestowed upon:

Los Angeles Police Officer Christopher Moorhead