

## Fremont Police Department Awards Ceremony 2014

The Fremont Police Department undertook their first annual Awards Ceremony on November 30, 2014 at the Ellis School. The event recognized many achievements earned by Fremont Police Officers.

The ceremony began with recognition of Fremont's longtime Chief Neal Janvrin, Retired, who began his service to Fremont as a part-time officer in 1987. He served as Chief of the Fremont Police Department from 1989 to 2012. Neal began his career in law enforcement with the Exeter Police Department in 1969, retiring from full-time service at the Rockingham County Sherriff's Department in 1994.



Educational Achievements: Issued to any Fremont Police Officer who shows sufficient documentation of completion and graduation from a recognized University or College in a Law Enforcement related field.

**Sergeant Jason Larochelle** - Associates Degree in Criminal Justice

**Officer Kurtis Boissonneault** - Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice

**Lieutenant Ellen Arcieri** - Master's Degree in Public Administration

Military Service Award: Awarded to any Police Officer who documents their service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America in any major conflict, and/or served not less than two years and was honorably discharged, and/or not less than five years National Guard of Reserve Service.

**Officer Derek Franek** joined the U S Marine Corps in 1994, attending Basic Training at Parris Island, South Carolina. Derek received Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and was then a Correctional Specialist assigned to the Marine Corps Brigg at Camp Pendleton, California. Officer Franek was honorably discharged in 1998, having attained the rank of Corporal, and having received the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal, and the Expert Rifleman's Badge.

**Officer Jesse Emery** enlisted in the U S Army in 1993, completing Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, as an Anti-Armor Infantryman. Through his career, he has held a variety of positions including Light Infantryman, Field Artillery Surveyor, Training NCO and Electronic Warfare Officer. Jesse has deployed twice with the New Hampshire Army National Guard. His first deployment in 2004/2005 was to Southern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he was a Machine Gunner on a Personal Security Detail. His second deployment in 2010/2011 was to Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn, where he served as the Brigade Electronic Warfare Officer responsible for overseeing the counter Improvised Explosives Device program for all of the Brigade's vehicles in Iraq. Officer Emery has

been full time with the NH Army National Guard since 2005 and is currently the Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge of the NH National Guard Counterdrug Program. He is also the Senior Marksmanship Coordinator for the NH National Guard and a certified Army Instructor.

His awards and decorations include 5 Army Commendation Medals, 3 Army Achievement Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal w/ 3 Campaign Stars, the Combat Action Badge, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

**Sergeant Jason Laroche** joined the NH Army National Guard in 1992, attending Basic Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, then receiving Advanced Training as a Single Channel Radio Operator at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Jason was also a Field Artillery Forward Observer. He deployed to Iraq in 2004/2005 with the 197<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade, and was an Intel Analyst at Brigade Headquarters in Southern Iraq. In 2010/2011, Jason Deployed with Target Acquisition Battery – Echo, 101<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery, and was assigned as the Communications Chief. Jason retired in 2012 after more than 20 years of service. His awards include 4 Army Commendation Medals, 3 Army Achievement Medals, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with 3 Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the National Defense Medal with “M” Device.

Honorable Service Award: Awarded to all Police Officers who, in good standing, complete five years of service. Consecutive awards shall be awarded for each five years of service. Honorable service is deemed as service in which the Officer has not been demoted, or has not been suspended for more than ten (10) days in the five-year period.

5 YEARS: Officer Greg Huard

10 YEARS: Officer Joseph Gordon

10 YEARS: Corporal Robert Allore

10 YEARS: Sergeant Jason Laroche



At the time of this writing, Corporal Allore, currently the longest tenured member of the Fremont Police Department, has announced his resignation. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors!

Life Saving Award: May be awarded to any Police Officer who, performs an act which through disregard of personal safety or a prompt and alert action resulted in the saving of a life.

The actions of these officers reflect positively on them and the Fremont Police Department, and they should be proud of their efforts.

**Officer Peter Morelli:** On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2014 at approximately 20:39 hours Officer Peter Morelli was dispatched to a medical emergency call on Susan's Way in Fremont. Dispatch



reported that a 26 year old male was unconscious from a possible heroin overdose, and was struggling to breathe. As Officer Morelli arrived at the scene, Dispatch updated that the victim had reportedly stopped breathing.

Officer Morelli entered the scene, and found the victim unconscious, and not breathing. He immediately began administering CPR to the victim, and attached the Department's Automatic External Defibrillator. With the assistance of Fremont Fire and Rescue personnel, the patient was revived and transported to the Exeter Hospital by Raymond Ambulance personnel.

The Command Staff of the Fremont Police Department have reviewed his actions, and have determined that his prompt and alert actions saved the life of the victim.

**Officer Jesse Emery:** On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 at approximately 18:23 hours Officer Jesse Emery was on patrol, and was passing through the parking lot of the ATV Trailhead located on Main Street in Fremont.

Officer Emery heard what he believed to be a faint cry for help. Officer Emery exited his cruiser to investigate, and again heard a male cry for help from the wooded area to the north of the parking lot, and just south of Scribner Road.

Officer Emery entered the wooded area and located an elderly male who had fallen into the swamp, was soaking wet, and unable to extricate himself from the water. Officer Emery entered the swamp, assisted the elderly gentleman to the shoreline, and then returned him to his residence on Scribner Road where they were met by EMS personnel.

The elderly male and his family reported that he had gone for a walk approximately one hour earlier. He reported that he had fallen into the swamp, and had been stuck for approximately forty-five minutes. The temperatures at the time were in the low thirties, and dropped into the mid-teens that night. Had Officer Emery not located the victim, and took action to get him out of the swamp, it is without doubt that the victim would have suffered the effects of hypothermia, and possibly succumbed due to his exposure to the elements.



The Command Staff of the Fremont Police Department have reviewed Officer Emery's actions of the 28<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2013, and have determined that his prompt and alert actions had a direct impact on saving the life of the elderly victim.

Medal of Valor: The Fremont Police Department's Standard Operating Procedure # 045 states that the Departmental Medal of Valor shall be awarded to any Police Officer for the successful performance of an act of extraordinary heroism while engaged in personal combat with an armed adversary at imminent personal danger in the performance of duty.

Letter from Fremont Police Lieutenant Ellen Arcieri to the Board of Selectmen:

*The small community of Fremont has become fully aware of the tragic events that occurred in Brentwood on May 12, 2014. Without a doubt, the actions of Fremont Police Officer Derek Franek saved many lives that fateful day in May. Specifically, Officer Franek's radio communication to the Rockingham County Dispatch Center and to Fremont Police Chief Jon Twiss after he miraculously escaped the gunfire from Michael Nolan. Officer Franek's observations of Officer Arkell's status as well as the crucial decisions made after these observations was paramount to the eventual safety of all responding law enforcement personnel.*

*For the law enforcement community, there is no greater distress call than hearing "Signal 1000, Officer down!" It is every law enforcement officer's greatest fear. The events of May 12, 2014 not only brought this fear to reality but added several dreadful layers to the tragic events.*

*Chief Jon Twiss was getting ready to secure for the day's shift when he received a call from Rockingham County Dispatch requesting that the Fremont Police Department assist the Brentwood Police Department with a domestic disturbance at 46 Mill Pond Road in Brentwood. Officer Derek Franek had just arrived at the Fremont Safety Complex to work the four to two am shift. He had previously swapped shifts with Officer Jesse Emery. Chief Twiss had called out to Officer Franek to respond to the domestic disturbance call to which Officer Franek responded, "Yes, I got it Chief. I know exactly where that is, it's right around the corner from my house." Officer Franek left the Complex and was enroute to the domestic disturbance. During this time, all officers monitoring Rockingham County Dispatch heard Officer Arkell sign out at the residence. Within minutes, Rockingham County Dispatch advised of receiving several calls from neighbors reporting that Officer Arkell was observed entering the residence and then numerous "shots fired" were heard. Neighbors also reported that Officer Arkell was still in the residence. Within one minute of receiving this information, Officer Franek signed off at the scene. The next thing Chief Twiss heard was Officer Franek transmitting on the radio that, "87 was down, there were several shots fired, I made it into the house and I was fired upon from an elevated position several times." Every police officer's worst fear had just become a reality.*

*Chief Twiss responds to the target residence and approaches from the rear to assist in establishing a perimeter. Within seconds, he comes under fire from the gunman who discharged what is believed to be a thirty round magazine from an AK-47 assault rifle from*

*somewhere in the gunman's residence. He immediately takes cover and concealment behind a tree positioned approximately 30 feet from the residence. Once the firing stops, he moves to a safer location to the corner of the neighboring duplex. During this time, the gunman starts firing numerous rounds of ammunition from his AK-47 assault rifle through the front of the residence. It is believed that the gunman may have discharged close to one hundred rounds of ammunition from the AK-47. Chief Twiss observes many of these rounds striking the ground across the street from the gunman's location. In short, all on-scene law enforcement were pinned down by extreme gunfire and unable to make any approach to the residence containing Officer Arkell.*

*Unaware of Officer Franek's present status, Chief Twiss makes several attempts to contact Officer Franek through the radio, however, the radio traffic was so excessive he was unable to get through. Eventually, through cell phone communication, Chief Twiss determines that Officer Franek is alive, uninjured, and in a position of cover and concealment at the south corner of the duplex. Chief Twiss asks the status of Officer Arkell to which Officer Franek states he is 10-2, meaning in layman's terms, deceased. It was in this conversation that intricate details regarding Officer Arkell's condition became absolutely essential in determining the likelihood of Officer Arkell's survival as well as the future safety of law enforcement lives. Because of these details, Chief Twiss was instrumental in convincing other on-scene commanding officers to not make any attempt of rescuing Officer Arkell under the present circumstances. To do so would have jeopardized additional lives. This was no easy decision to make. However, in the back of every police officer's mind is the possibility of retrieving Officer Arkell with the arrival of SWAT trained personnel. Every police officer knows that SWAT units will be dispatched to situations such as this one. Knowing of this capacity, police officers are aware that SWAT units have the necessary weapons, firepower, equipment, and training to formulate a plan to neutralize the threat and retrieve fallen police officers. The realization of SWAT personnel arriving on scene provided a shimmer of hope for Steven Arkell. Lastly, although Officer Franek's observations would prove to be right, no one wanted to believe the worst and held out for undeniable evidence of Officer Arkell's fate.*

*As if this horrendous situation could not get any worse, it did. Within minutes of this decision, smoke is observed emanating from the gunman's residence and it is clear that the residence is beginning to burn. It is impossible for fire personnel to quell the fire due to the gunfire. If Officer Arkell is still alive and no rescue is made, he will die in the fire. This is an excruciating situation where the right decision will not be determined until all the facts are known. Regardless of whatever decision is made, it will be one that would haunt each officer that day for the rest of his/her lives.*

*Once again, commanding officers at the scene were considering a rescue in light of the impending fire. Yet again, Chief Twiss spoke with Officer Franek to determine his certainty of Officer Arkell's death. Sifting through the intricate details of Officer Franek's statement, Chief Twiss made a determination that Officer Arkell was indeed deceased and to risk sending other police officers into that residence to rescue Steven Arkell, additional lives would most certainly be lost. This was no easy decision and may have been the most difficult one to make in Chief*

*Twiss' thirty-year career in law enforcement. But in the end, it proved to be the right one. There is no substitute for years of experience in this profession. There is no substitute for common sense, and there is no substitute for bravery and courage in the face of adversity, even if it is the unpopular choice. Chief Twiss has exhibited all these attributes throughout his 30 years in law enforcement but most importantly, he exhibited these qualities on that fateful day in May when it counted the most.*

*Chief Twiss' actions on May 12, 2014 certainly meet the criteria for this award and it is recommended that he receive the Departmental Medal of Valor.*

**The Town of Fremont proudly presented the Medal of Valor to Chief Jon Twiss.**

Medal of Honor: The Departmental Medal of Honor shall be awarded to any Police Officer who intelligently distinguishes him/herself by performance of an act of gallantry at imminent personal hazard to himself with knowledge of said risk above and beyond the call of duty.

Letter from Sergeant Jason Larochelle to Chief Jon Twiss:

*On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 at approximately 16:01 hours Rockingham Dispatch received a 911 call reporting that an elderly male was being verbally abused by his adult son at 46 Mill Pond Road in Brentwood, New Hampshire. The neighbor calling in the incident reported that this is an ongoing issue, and that the adult son could be heard yelling profanities at the elderly male.*

*Fremont Officer Franek was dispatched as a back-up Officer to Brentwood Officer Stephen Arkell, who was the Officer On-Duty in Brentwood, and had been dispatched as the primary unit.*

*At 16:09 hours Officer Arkell arrived at the scene and was met at the front of the residence by the elderly male resident. Officer Arkell entered the home with the permission of the elderly male.*

*At 16:12 hours, Rockingham Dispatch received multiple 911 calls from residents in the area reporting that they had observed Officer Arkell enter the residence at 46 Mill Pond Road, and then heard "many, many, repetitive" gun shots, and that the Officer has not come back out.*

*Rockingham Dispatch attempted to reach Officer Arkell on the radio, and was unsuccessful. They immediately notified Officer Franek of the reports of gunfire, and the negative contact with Officer Arkell. A Signal-1000 was transmitted for Rock-West Radio Frequency, and at 16:14 hours, Officer Franek reported that he was on scene.*

*Over the next three minutes, Officer Franek made a tactical approach to the residence, and came into contact with an elderly male on the front porch. Knowing that shots had been fired, and Officer Arkell was unaccounted for, and not knowing the identity or location of the shooter, Officer Franek secured the elderly male in handcuffs, and then made entry into the residence through the same front door that Officer Arkell had gone through.*



*With full knowledge that he was putting his own life in peril, Officer Franek entered the home in an attempt to come to Officer Arkell's aid. Officer Franek immediately observed multiple bullet holes in the walls and floor of the home, but continued farther into the structure. There, Officer Franek observed Officer Arkell.*

*Prior to being able to make physical contact with Officer Arkell, Officer Franek came under fire from a then unknown suspect in an elevated position. Several rounds were fired at Officer Franek, and he took the only action that was available to him. Continuing his advance toward the rear of the structure, Officer Franek made it to a back door, exiting onto a porch, which is at the second floor level on the back of the residence, and contained no stairs to the ground level. Officer Franek leaped over the porch railing, and to the ground, and took a position of cover at the side of the building. Under the most extreme of circumstances, Officer Franek had been able to make an immediate assessment of Officer Arkell's condition, and this would ultimately preserve the safety of other responding officers.*

*Once in a position of cover, Officer Franek relayed to Rockingham Dispatch that several rounds had been fired at him, and that Officer Arkell was "down", and requested assistance from any available units.*

*Over the next several minutes, other Officers arrived at the scene, and began to take locations around the residence in an attempt to formulate a plan to get to Officer Arkell's aid, and neutralize the threat. During that time, Officer Franek was able to relay to them his observations of Officer Arkell, and Officer Arkell's location within the building. During that time, the suspect began lighting fires within the residence, and continued to sporadically fire rounds at Officers around the perimeter. Based upon the information provided by Officer Franek, about Officer Arkell's condition, the fact that the suspected shooter had a position of extreme tactical superiority over any Officer making entry, and the building beginning to burn, a decision was made not to send further Officer's into the residence, and into a probable ambush situation.*

*Based on the above account of Officer Franek's actions, he knowingly made a selfless decision to enter a structure where he knew gunfire had taken place, and probably believed that a fellow Officer had been the victim of that gunfire. His split second decision to enter the residence in an effort to assist a fellow Officer was truly heroic. Had Officer Franek not entered the residence, the information about the suspect's tactics, as well as Officer Arkell's condition would not have been known, and therefore other Officers would have made entry to that home, and ultimately there would have been a greater loss of life.*

*Officer Franek's actions on the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of May 2014 definitely fit within this definition. The Command Staff of the Fremont Police Department have reviewed his actions, and have determined that he acted heroically, in spite of the knowledge that he was placing himself at risk.*

*Although Officer Arkell's death is tragic, and he will forever be remembered for his service to the community and his ultimate sacrifice, and mourned by those of us who knew him, we could not be more proud of Officer Franek for the actions he took on that fateful day.*



*Had Officer Franek not made the split second decision that he did, and been willing to put himself in harm's way to come to the aid of a Brother*

*Officer, then other responding units would not have had the information needed to make the informed decisions that were made to keep other officers out of a potential ambush. His actions that day undoubtedly saved lives and prevented this tragedy from compounding into further loss of life.*

*Officer Franek, your actions on that day reflect very positively on you and the Fremont Police Department, and you should be proud of your efforts. At this time, you are awarded the Fremont Police Department Medal of Honor, the highest commendation available to members of the Fremont Police Department. This award should serve to notify you and others in the Department that such actions do not go unnoticed by the command staff of the Fremont Police Department, your Brother and Sister Officers, or by the residents of Fremont.*

**The Fremont Police Department proudly presented the Medal of Honor to Officer Derek Franek.**



Photos courtesy of Brett & Emelie Hunter