

2007 Governor's Public Safety Awards Honorees

Dan Stephens, Blake Swicord, and Scott Jeter

Act of Heroism

On April 1, 2007, Long County Sheriff's deputies responded to a domestic violence call and were met at the front porch of the residence by a male firing a scoped rifle. The deputies sought cover behind their cars, where they remained for approximately two hours until sufficient resources arrived. The State of Georgia SWAT team was dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, the deputies were able to retreat, and the SWAT team assumed the perimeter.

A team was formed including SFC Dan Stephens, Cpl. Blake Swicord, and TFC Scott Jeter, to evacuate neighboring residences. These three members approached the residences in an armored vehicle, but left the safety of the vehicle and used their own bodies to shield the residents as they evacuated. Once neighbors were in a safe location, the team approached the suspect's house in the armored vehicle and made several PA announcements asking for his surrender. The suspect fired several shots at them.

As the vehicle approached an open garage on the residence, they discovered the suspect's elderly wife. Again, the team left the vehicle to rescue the female as gunshots could be heard from inside the house. Once the hostage was rescued, chemical agents were introduced into the residence and the suspect was subsequently discovered inside – deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The heroic actions of these three men went above and beyond the call of duty, and prevented a tragic situation from becoming much worse.



Dan Stephens



Blake Swicord



Scott Jeter