

CITY OF CORAL GABLES

-MEMORANDUM

TO: AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE
FROM: MAJOR J. MCNICHOL

DATE: NOVEMBER 28, 2007

SUBJECT:
LEO AWARD NOMINATION

I would like to take this opportunity to submit the nominations of Sergeant Andrew Weidenfeld and Officer Rey Azan of the Training Section for the 2008 L.E.O. Support Services Award for a Category Two Agency.

A review of Sergeant Weidenfeld and Officer Rey Azan's cumulative efforts and initiatives while assigned to the Coral Gables Police Department's Training Section clearly demonstrate that they have provided exemplary and outstanding support to our agency in achieving the Department's mission "To provide police services with honor and excellence in partnership with the people we serve".

The exemplary and outstanding support provided by Sergeant Weidenfeld and Officer Rey Azan has been demonstrated by the following list of accomplishments of the Training Section from 2004 to 2007.

- . ~ Utilization of available expertise and resources in 2004 to make the Department's indoor firearms range operable again at a reduced repair cost after a 9 month period in which the range had been inoperable due to estimates that the needed repairs would cost an estimated \$75,000.
- . From 2004 to 2006, increasing the number of FDLE certified CMS General Departmental Instructors from 4 to 29. 17 of the 29 instructors are also Certified CMS Firearms instructors.
- . Additionally, the certification of all Firearms instructors as Patrol Rifle instructors which allowed for the re-establishment of the Department's patrol rifle program and subsequent training of most of the Department's uniform and investigative personnel that has made our agency significantly better prepared to respond to the threat posed by "active shooter" incidents. This effort was followed by research and a successful proposal to authorize the carrying of the AR 15 model of patrol rifle by Departmental personnel.
- . Further efforts in the area of Firearms Training from 2004 through 2006 have consisted of; arranging for most of the 17 firearms instructors to be certified as armorers by the manufacturers of the primary weapons carried by CGPD personnel (Glock, Colt and

Ruger), this has resulted in significantly less down time for any damaged or malfunctioning Departmental weapons.

- . In 2006 the Training Section incorporated “simmunitions” into the Department’s active shooter training scenarios which simulated the need to respond to an encounter with an active armed offender. There was a great deal of positive feedback from the sworn personnel that participated in the “siminunitions” training describing how they felt better prepared to respond to an active shooter situation.
- . In 2006 and 2007 conducting research and testing of currently available duty ammunition that would provide Departmental personnel with a ballistic advantage against the contemporary threat of ammunition such as the FN **5X7** which FDLE alerted law enforcement agencies about in 2004 due to its ability to defeat soft body armor. As a result the Coral Gables Police Department was the first local agency to authorize the use of higher velocity/lower grain weight duty ammunition that reduces the ballistic advantage gap held by some offenders that may be armed with FN 5X7 ammunition.
- . In 2006 the Training Section researched and subsequently implemented the field use of the improved biphasic AED model from a monophasic older model of AED in 2005. Subsequent training of Departmental instructors to become CPR instructors was also accomplished, not only for training Departmental personnel but to also conduct
~ instruction sessions for interested citizen groups as well.
- . In 2007 Sergeant Weidenfeld and Officer Azan took significant roles in the preparation and planning for the largest active shooting training event in the history of local law enforcement which was conducted in July on the University of Miami Main Campus. This type of training event carries a high risk for accidental discharges and injuries, but due to the detailed planning and careful attention to safety on the day of the event, a complex multi agency active shooter training scenario was completed without incident.
- . In addition to this range of accomplishments; from 2004 through 2007 the Training Section managed the equipping and orientation training of more new hires of sworn personnel than had ever been experienced in any previous three year period for the Coral Gables Police Department.

In summary, Sergeant Weidenfeld’s and Officer Rey Azan’s efforts and initiatives have resulted in significant improvements to the Department’s firearm ammunition, associated firearm equipment, firearms range facility, firearms instruction capabilities and overall level of firearms training; while also improving first responder capabilities through the introduction of an improved AED and the associated CPR training.

In consideration of these descriptions of their exemplary and outstanding support of the members of the Coral Gables Police Department, I am requesting that the nomination of Sergeant Andrew Weidenfeld and Officer Rey Azan for the 2008 L.E.O. Award for Support Services be submitted to the L.E.O. award selection committee for consideration.

Reviewed by:

Date:

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Assistant Chief of Police

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Major Scott Masington
Chairman Awards Committee

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