

Contact: Celeste Smith
817-546-8169
Smith@pavlikandassociates.com

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For immediate release

**FORT WORTH POLICE OFFICERS' AWARDS
FOUNDATION HONORS EXEMPLARY SERVICE**

Fort Worth Officer Brandi Kamper was named Officer of the Year for 2016 at the 65th Annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, June 1, 2017 at the City Club of Fort Worth. Official host was the Fort Worth Police Officers' Award Foundation. Platinum sponsors included the Robert S. & Joyce Pate Capper Charitable Foundation, Karen & Larry Anfin, Bell Helicopter, BNSF Railway Foundation, QuikTrip Corporation, R4 Foundation, and The Miles Foundation.

The honor for Commander of the Year went to Captain Julie Swearingin. Officer Tracy Carter was honored with the Dwayne Freeto Service with Respect Award.

Other award nominees and award winners in their respective areas of assignment are:

Central Northwest Command

Officer Drew Hernandez
Detective Bonnie Kenjura
Officer Christian Magallon
Officer James Minter **Winner
Officer Gregory Ray
Officer Michael Sullivan

Southeast Command

Officer Ray Azucena **Winner
Officer Paul Garcia
Officer John (Clint) Hall
Officer Xavier Serrano ** Winner



(cont.)

Specialized Units

Officer Christopher Bain

Detective Matthew Barron **Winner

Detective David Bell

Detective Jerardo Cedillo

Detective Christen Dominguez

Detective Amelia Heise

Officer Brandi Kamper

Detective Zachary Martin

Officer Daniel McCreery

Officer Eric Mekosch

Detective Edward (Brian) Raynsford

Detective Rholand Sabo

Officer David Sullivan

Detective Weldon Thompson

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Edward Bach

Sergeant Rodney Bangs

Sergeant Rachel DeHoyos **Winner

Sergeant Stephen Fineman

Sergeant Troy Lawrence

Sergeant John Phillips

Sergeant Sandra Rhoden

Sergeant Lorne Tracy

Sergeant Wade Walls

Sergeant Robert Westbrook

Commander of the Year

Lieutenant Guerin Mahaffey

Captain Julie Swearingin ** Winner

The Officer of the Year commendation follows.



Officer of the Year, 2016 and Amon G. Carter Award Recipient - Officer Brandi Kamper

Officer Brandi Kamper is a professional who has proven to all what police work is all about.

On March 15, 2016, a pursuit began on the west side of Fort Worth when a fugitive team attempted to pull over an SUV. The occupant, a 42-year-old man was wanted for two aggravated assault charges and two warrants for jumping bail. While the team was waiting for a marked patrol unit, the subject fled in the

SUV. There was also a second man in the SUV; who was later identified as the adult son of the driver.

The chase continued as Officer Matt Pearce and a Special Response Team unit was able to catch up with the fugitive team. The chase ended when the father and son bailed from the SUV after driving onto a gravel driveway that led to a secluded home in far west Fort Worth. The driver of the SUV was forced to stop because it was a dead end. Both jumped out of the SUV and started running into a thickly wooded area.

Officer Pearce and his partner got out of their vehicles to chase them on foot. One suspect had a “long gun” and one a “hand gun”. The radio keyed up and an officer was yelling “SHOTS FIRED! SHOTS FIRED!” Then, the words every officer never wants to hear came. “OFFICER DOWN! OFFICER DOWN!”

Officers who heard this immediately headed to the pursuit location, including Officer Brandi Kamper who was at the Academy. She immediately grabbed a Tac Med backpack and ran to the SWAT office for a ride to the scene. As they were driving, information was coming across the radio that one suspect was down, and one armed suspect was still at large.

Once on scene, Officer Kamper was dropped off at the gravel drive and then ran 200 yards uphill to where the SUV and police cars had stopped, linking up with Special Response Team Sgt. DeHoyos who was attempting to locate the downed officer. The gravel drive stopped at a residence and the entire area was surrounded by dense brush. They knew the injured officer was either to the north or the west of them, but they could not see them because they were at a lower elevation and the trees and shrubs were too thick.

The Sergeant had difficulty getting air time on the radio but was finally able to ask for the downed officer’s location. An officer responded on the radio, and as he did, they could both hear his voice audibly to the south of them. The Sergeant immediately started yelling, “I can hear you, keep yelling so we can find you!”

The Sergeant continued calling out to the other officers and at the same time, she and Officer Kamper were looking for the fastest, clearest path to get through the brush and trees. Officer Kamper looked at the Sergeant and said, “I don’t

have any weapons with me!” The Sergeant, who was carrying a patrol rifle, said, “I’m your lethal cover, I got your back!” Officer Kamper said “Let’s go!” and they made their way up the hill, running through the bushes, vines, and undergrowth.

They got to a barbed wire fence and met with an officer who was able to direct them to the downed officer. Officer Kamper immediately recognized who he was; a friend, Matt Pearce. There was still an armed suspect who had not been captured, and despite the danger of being in an open area with no cover, without regard for personal safety, she immediately began assessing Officer Pearce’s injuries.

Officer Kamper saw that Officer Pearce’s right leg was swelling larger than the left one and knew this was indicative of internal bleeding. She directed an officer to apply the tourniquet to his right leg, ensuring it was applied correctly. Simultaneously, she was conducting a “Blood Sweep” on Officer Pearce to look for any hemorrhaging wounds that may have been missed visually. Officer Kamper later said, “I just kept finding holes in him!” Officer Kamper dressed three bullet wounds with chest seals to prevent more air from entering his chest cavity preventing air from entering his lungs which would increase pressure and make it difficult for Officer Pearce to breathe. After the chest wounds were sealed, more wounds were found on his right arm, requiring a pressure bandage to control the bleeding.

Officer Pearce was shot five times which resulted in ten entry/exit wounds. He would not have survived without the critical and immediate medical care provided by Officer Kamper who demonstrated extraordinary courage in an extremely stressful and dangerous situation to save a fellow officer and friend’s life. Not only were Officer Kamper’s actions heroic, but also Officer Kamper’s integrity and character are indicative of doing what is right all of the time. At the time of this incident, the FWPD Tac Med program had been eliminated so those officers could be reassigned to other duties. Officer Kamper, who served in the U.S. Army as a Combat Medic and Nurse, was assigned to the Academy when this incident had occurred.

Officer Kamper had the skills and experience to help this fellow officer. Her courage, character and devotion to duty were exemplified by repeated actions in the face of a stressful and dangerous situation. She has brought honor to the Fort Worth Police Department and is truly an example of professionalism.

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