

2014 Valor Awards — Armed Domestic

On August 23, around 2:15 a.m., officers responded to the 500 block of North Imboden Street for reports of a domestic incident. The victim stated her ex-boyfriend was knocking at her window. As officers arrived on scene, the 911 call taker radioed an update. The ex-boyfriend had broken into the victim's apartment and a struggle could be heard.

Sergeant Delton Goodrum, Officers Douglas Golden and Officer Robert Cortez quickly approached the back sliding glass door of the apartment. The door had been shattered. The officers yelled into the apartment in an attempt to make contact with those inside. The victim and her ex-boyfriend emerged from the back of the apartment. The victim was covered in blood. She had been stabbed and cut with a knife. Officer Cortez was able to grab the victim and pull her away from the suspect.

The suspect remained in the threshold of the broken door. He was covered in blood and sweat. Sergeant Goodrum and Officer Golden told him to show his hands. The suspect complied. However, he had a listless look on his face and was muttering to himself. The officers stepped towards the suspect to take him into custody. Suddenly, the suspect's demeanor changed. He began yelling about not going back to jail and ran into the apartment. The officers ran into the apartment after the suspect. They stopped in the front room and took cover as the suspect ran to the back of the apartment.

Sergeant Goodrum and Officer Golden took position in the living room while Officer Cortez opened the front door of the apartment to create a second route to enter and exit. Sergeant Goodrum yelled for the suspect to come out of the bathroom. Officer Golden could hear the suspect replying "No" and "Nope". The suspect yelled he had a gun. He stated that this was only going to end one way. Officer Golden continued to talk to the suspect in an attempt to calm him down and get him to come out of the bathroom safely. Sergeant Goodrum instructed him to continue talking to the suspect while he stepped out to coordinate a police response.

At this time, Officers Waple, Sharif, Griffin, Ellis and Vitale entered the apartment to assist Officers Golden and Cortez. Officer Jonathan Griffin had a Taser with him and positioned himself close to the bathroom and Officer Golden in case it was needed. Suddenly, the suspect emerged from the bathroom holding a knife to his neck. Standing just a few feet from Officer Golden and Griffin, he shouted at the officers to leave the apartment. Without flinching, Officer Golden continued to attempt to calm the suspect. He told the suspect to focus on him and his words and to put the knife down. As Officer Golden spoke the suspect continued to make lunging motions with the knife at his neck. Threatening to harm himself or the officers at any moment. Slowly, the suspect began to walk towards the officers. He began to lower the knife towards a nearby table. As he did, he asked the officers if they were going to tase him. Officer Griffin responded they were not as long as he continued to cooperate. The suspect looked up and responded, "I don't believe you". He began to lung towards officers with the knife at which point Officer Griffin deployed his Taser.

The suspect fell backwards with the knife in his hand. The officers sprang into action. They converged on the suspect and were able to disarm him and place him in handcuffs. The suspect later stated that while he was in the bathroom he had decided he was going to kill himself using death by cop.

Officers Golden and Griffin's actions and quick thinking enabled the suspect to be taken into custody without injury to himself or anyone else.

Officer Douglas Golden is awarded a Bronze Medal and Officer Jonathan Griffin is awarded a Certificate of Valor.



Douglas Golden



Jonathan Griffin