

OpTac International News Bulletin

Outstanding Police Work

We often learn more from our mistakes than our successes. As such, **OpTac International News Bulletins** have reflected this philosophy in their content by providing the consequences of inadequate policing along with corresponding solutions. However, this edition of our **News Bulletin** presents the outstanding police work exhibited by officers of the Hagerstown, Maryland Police Dept., especially Officer Langley Dean who on not just one, but three separate occasions, demonstrated his life-saving skills.

Officer Dean, a nine year veteran, recently used a portable automated external defibrillator (AED) for the second time in a two-week period and the third time in the past four years to save someone's life. In the most recent incident, he used an AED to save the life of a custodian at a local elementary school who had collapsed and was without a pulse. Dean arrived on-scene prior to EMT personnel, and administered a shock that re-started the custodian's pulse and breathing. He then performed chest compressions until the EMTs arrived.

Dr. Neil Roy, the emergency room physician at Meritus Hospital, commented, "Without this officer's quick response, and life-saving training and expertise, the victim would not have survived." One week prior, Dean and Officer Jon Molineaux, saved a man who was lying on the floor having difficulty breathing. The man went into cardiac arrest and was revived by the officers with an AED and a breathing tube. Dr. Roy again stated, "Without the two officers' early life-saving actions, performing CPR and using the AED, the patient would not be alive today...The officers' actions saved his life."

Prior to the aforementioned incidents, Officer Dean and Officer Ryan Wertz used CPR and an AED to save the life of a man who had collapsed inside of a car. Critical actions such as the ones described in this **News Bulletin** are under-reported in the media and often go unnoticed. However, law enforcement agencies and the general public should recognize the contribution to society that officers like Langley Dean make on a daily basis around the world.

Law enforcement agencies that have not already done so, should invest in the purchase of AEDs and training in their use. While fire/rescue personnel have the primary role of first responders for health-related issues, patrol officers are frequently first on-scene. Consequently, officers should possess the tools and corresponding proficiency in order to more effectively perform all aspects of their life-saving mission.