



Employee Recognition Combat Cross Award



Deputy Ryan Carey, Deputy Jason Hicks, and Deputy Mark Empting Receive the Combat Cross Award

June 2, 2009

On Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at the Clay County Board Meeting Deputy Ryan Carey, Deputy Jason Hicks, and Deputy Mark Empting received the Combat Cross Award for their actions on April 3, 2008.



Deputies Jason Hicks, Ryan Carey, and Mark Empting

April 3, 2008 was not a typical night for local law enforcement; in fact, it was a call most officers hope never happens in their career. At 2117 hours officers were sent to O'Reilly's Auto Parts on a report of a robbery and assault. Officers arrived on the scene and spoke with the victim. Information was gathered from the victim that she had been kidnapped at gunpoint by the suspect from her Fargo home. The suspect had her drive him to a trailer in Moorhead where he said he lived. Once there he told her he was going to sexually assault her and then kill her. She took her chance to escape and ran to the O'Reilly's Auto Parts store where they were just closing for the night. The

suspect followed her into the store and asked for the money at gunpoint. When the suspect went to leave, he grabbed the victim and she fought back. After assaulting her with the gun, she was able to get away, and he fled from the store on foot.

A possible ID was gathered on the suspect and officers were sent to a possible address in South Moorhead. Deputy Hicks, Deputy Empting and Deputy Carey went to the address in an attempt to locate him. Without knowing, they were met by the suspect outside an apartment and shots were fired at the deputies with no warning. Deputies returned fire and the suspect fled on foot.

A call was put out to all local law enforcement agencies for assistance in the search for the suspect. An intensive search was conducted in a south Moorhead residential area by many officers from every law enforcement agency in Clay County and Cass County of North Dakota. At 2229 hours Deputy Empting and a Fargo Officer confronted the suspect and shots were exchanged and the suspect was wounded.

On March 20, 2009 the suspect, Vincent Degidio Jr., was convicted in Federal Court and was sentenced to 29 years in prison.



On June 2, 2009 Deputy Jason Hicks, Deputy Mark Empting, and Deputy Ryan Carey were presented with the Clay County Sheriff's Office Combat Cross Award for their actions on April 3, 2008.