

WSHNA Distinguished Service Award Submission

Date of Submission: March 31, 2026

Nominee: Sgt. Jason Robinson (ATL for NSM HNT)

Agency: Edmonds Police Department

Team: North Sound Metro SWAT / Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT)

Date of Incident: September 15, 2025

On September 15, 2025, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office responded to a domestic violence call involving a no-contact order violation. Upon arrival, exigent entry was made and the female petitioner was removed from the unit, but the male respondent remained inside with a knife to his throat. The incident escalated quickly as the male positioned himself on the third-story balcony and began stabbing himself, inflicting severe lacerations to his neck and leg. He refused to come down, and a request was put out for a crisis negotiator to respond.

At the time, North Sound Metro HNT was covering negotiation-related calls for the Region 1 SWAT, which includes the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). Because there was only one on-duty negotiator available, Sgt. Jason Robinson, the Assistant Team Leader for North Sound Metro HNT, was alerted while off-duty. He responded immediately to assist.

Upon arrival, Sgt. Robinson found that a deputy had been speaking with the male from the parking lot for nearly two hours. Recognizing that the rapport had plateaued and the subject remained in a critical state, Sgt. Robinson took over as the primary negotiator to provide a fresh perspective. This was an intense, direct, face-to-face negotiation conducted from the parking lot while the subject remained visible on the third-story balcony. From this position, Sgt. Robinson maintained constant visual contact with the subject, who was covered in blood and maintained control of a large butcher style knife often placing it to his throat.

For the next two hours, Sgt. Robinson engaged the subject in a high-intensity dialogue. The subject was in the midst of a massive crisis, distraught over his sobriety, his marriage, and the loss of a job. On several occasions, the male attempted to resume stabbing himself in the neck, torso, and legs. Each time, Sgt. Robinson used his negotiation skills to discourage further stabbing and keep the subject focused on a peaceful resolution.

Through persistent rapport-building, Sgt. Robinson eventually moved the subject from a state of violent despair to one of cooperation. The male ultimately told Sgt. Robinson he no longer wanted to harm himself and agreed to leave the butcher knife inside the apartment. He then voluntarily came downstairs to the parking lot so that Sgt. Robinson could take him into custody.

The subject complied with all commands as Sgt. Robinson placed him in handcuffs. He was apologetic and respectful, even thanking the personnel involved for their help. Based on the severity of the self-inflicted wounds, he was immediately transported to the hospital for emergency medical treatment.

The WSHNA Distinguished Service Award recognizes a single event where a negotiator's skills were the deciding factor in a resolution. Sgt. Robinson's performance during this incident is a perfect example of that situation. His dedication to the team was evident from the moment he stepped up while off duty to assist a short-staffed unit. By successfully establishing a bridge with a subject in the middle of a violent mental health crisis, Sgt. Robinson directly saved a life that likely would have been lost to suicide.

Furthermore, by successfully talking the armed subject into surrendering peacefully and leaving the weapon behind, Sgt. Robinson eliminated the need for a tactical entry or the use of force, thereby preventing potential harm to the responding deputies. His actions turned a volatile, life-threatening standoff into a safe and successful medical intervention.

Based on his professional expertise and his intentional actions, resulting in the successful outcome of this life-threatening standoff, Sgt. Jason Robinson is highly deserving of the WSHNA Distinguished Service Award.

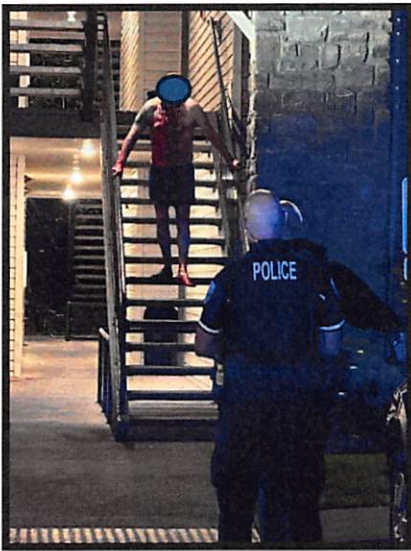


Photo of the male surrendering

Submitted By: Allan O'Neill
Detective Allan O'Neill – Team Leader, North Sound Metro HNT (WSHNA Member)

Submitted By: L Hemion
Officer Loraine Hemion – Assistant Team Leader, North Sound Metro HNT (WSHNA Member)