



TUPELO POLICE DEPARTMENT

400 N. Front Street, Tupelo, MS 38801 • Office 662-841-6498 • Fax 662-841-6555

Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Sgt. Walter Wilkerson during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Sgt. Wilkerson was the acting shift commander for the patrol shift that was on duty at the time Lee County Dispatch made officers aware of the threat. Sgt. Wilkerson was able to organize the evacuation of Wal-Mart and surrounding areas. Should the worst have occurred that day, Sgt. Wilkerson would have been responsible to saving hundreds of lives. Due to Sgt. Wilkerson's actions, the correct personnel were summoned to the scene and a peaceful resolution resulted.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Hendrix".



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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Officer Charles Harvey during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Officer Harvey was one of several officers who responded to the initial threat. Officer Harvey utilized his training as a Crisis Intervention Team Officer and made contact with the suspect by phone. Upon my arrival to the scene, Officer Harvey was attempting to talk the suspect down as department negotiators were preparing to make contact with the suspect. Through Officer Harvey's actions we were able to gather initial information about the suspect and his actions.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Capt. Brett Moyer during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Capt. Moyer, who was the shift commander for the oncoming patrol shift, was able to relay information to patrol officers and quickly dispatched officers to major intersections and vital thoroughfares to have them shut down. His actions prepared the City of Tupelo for the worst but helped to insure the safety of citizens and all those involved.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Hendrix", written in a cursive style.



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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Det. Wes Kloac during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Det. Kloac, after learning of the incident, responded to assist without being asked. Upon arrival, Det. Kloac spoke with the suspect's family to gather important information to be relayed to department negotiators. Due to the suspects air speed, communication by cellphone with the suspect was difficult. At one point, Det. Kloac found himself negotiating with the suspect. Although not a department negotiator, Det. Kloac used his experience and CIT training to aid in the negotiating. Det. Kloac was one of many officers who went above and beyond the call of duty that day, but I feel that his actions, along with others, directly resulted in the incident ending peacefully.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Det. L'Brien Miller during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Det. Miller responded to the scene and immediately assisted in evacuating neighborhoods around Wal-Mart. Det. Miller then responded to the Command Post located at the Tupelo Police Department. Det. Miller, working with other detectives, was able to gather information about the suspect and the situation at hand to be relayed to units on the ground at the Tupelo Regional Airport. As soon as the suspect grounded the plane, Det. Miller was able to have affidavits and warrants signed for the suspect's arrest insuring that he would be held for pending federal charges.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Sgt. Cassidy Jumper during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Sgt. Jumper was called to the scene to act as a negotiator with the suspect. Sgt. Jumper, while acting as a negotiator, also alerted the Criminal Investigation Division to respond to the scene. Sgt. Jumper was the first negotiator to speak with the suspect and was able to gather vital information to be passed to other officers on scene. The department's actions that day were an example of team work and quick thinking not only between multiple divisions but also multiple agencies. While a good job was done by all that day, I believe that Sgt. Jumper's actions stood out and that he should be recognized for his hard work.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Cpl. Alan Chavers during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Cpl. Chavers, serving as one of the department's negotiators, was able to use his skills as a veteran negotiator to speak with the suspect. After the suspect had grounded the airplane, Cpl. Chavers relayed information to the suspect and responding law enforcement agencies insuring that the suspect was taken into custody peacefully.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

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Gentlemen,

I would like acknowledge the actions of Sgt. Michael Bowens during a potentially catastrophic event that occurred on September 3rd 2022. On this day, an individual stole a Beechcraft C90 twin engine airplane and advised that he was going to crash the plane into Wal-Mart on West Main Street in Tupelo, MS. Sgt. Bowens was a supervisor for the oncoming patrol shift on that day. Sgt. Bowens, who also serves as a department negotiator, simultaneously saw that patrol officers responded to the scene to assist and also aided negotiators in gathering information about the suspect and the situation at hand. Although many law enforcement officers and agencies worked together that day I feel that, through his skills as a veteran hostage negotiator and quick thinking, Sgt. Bowens helped bring the situation to a peaceful resolution.

Thank You,
Lt. Paul Hendrix

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Hendrix".