

444 (SHOREDITCH) SQUADRON AIR CADETS
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NO EMBARGO, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOP FIRST AID AWARD FOR CHRISTOPHER

Cadet Corporal Christopher Tuohy, a cadet from 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron, Air Cadets based in Hackney has received The St John's Ambulance Award of a Meritorious Service Bar and Certificate. It is the highest St John's Ambulance Award that has ever been made to a member of the Air Cadet Organisation.

Christopher received the award as a result of an incident which in the view of the St John's Ambulance was exceptional. Christopher and his cousin were out riding their bikes when they came across two men arguing in the doorway of a house. One man pushed and then hit the other, knocking him to the floor.

Acting on instinct and because of his first aid training, Christopher instructed his cousin to call the police and an ambulance. Christopher attended to the casualty and conducted a primary first aid survey. The casualty was unconscious and had a head injury which was bleeding freely.

Christopher removed some broken glass from the area where the casualty was lying, and then he checked his responses. Christopher's aunt lived close by, so he called for a first aid kit.

When the first aid kit arrived, Christopher put on his gloves and applied a dressing to the casualty's head. By this time the casualty had regained consciousness and was becoming aggressive toward Christopher. Christopher explained that he needed to remain still, but the casualty gave further verbal abuse to him and bystanders.

When the First Response Team arrived, it consisted solely of one female paramedic and Christopher stayed close by as he was concerned for her safety. Throughout the incident Christopher remained calm and has since been praised for his actions, as the man was well known to the police and ambulance crews for being unpredictable due to alcohol abuse.

Cadet Corporal Tuohy commented "It was an honour to receive recognition for my actions but I did what any other person would have done in the same circumstances. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. The First Aid training which I received from my Squadron kicked in and I did what needed to be done."

Christopher received his First Aid training through 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron. The Squadron runs First Aid Courses at both Life Saver Plus and First Aid at Work levels for Cadets in the Squadron. It was because of this training provided by the Air Cadet staff that Christopher was able to bravely help an injured member of the public.

Christopher's Commanding Officer, Flight Lieutenant Peter Gourri of 444 (Shoreditch) Sqn stated "What Chris did was exceptional. With complete disregard for himself, he went to help someone who was clearly in distress and stayed there to provide support if required. It is a reflection of the fact that there are plenty of excellent young people in society today who just need the sort of training and activities which an organisation like the Air Cadets can provide."

Photograph

Cdt Cpl Christopher Tuohy receiving his award from Journalist, Broadcaster and Former MP for Tatton, Mr Martin Bell OBE



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For more information on this release, please contact Flight Lieutenant Peter Gourri
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About 444 (Shoreditch) Squadron:

444 (Shoreditch) Squadron has been part of life in the East End of London since 1940 and is part of the Air Cadet Organisation, which is open to young people aged between 13 and 18 years of age. Cadets have the opportunity to go flying and gliding as part of the Air Cadets. The Air Cadet Organisation also supports qualifications through BTEC's in Aviation Studies and Public Services. Cadets can also take part in a wide choice of activities including adventure training, flying, gliding, a variety of sports, shooting and additionally, there are visits to RAF stations, as well as camps both in the UK and overseas. Cadets are also encouraged to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.