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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE, LIFESAVING AND VALOR AWARDS FOR ACTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Tuesday, August 20, 2002, United States Secret Service Director Brian L. Stafford will recognize agency employees whose heroic actions in New York City on September 11, 2001 reflect the highest standards of bravery.

The Director's Valor Award is the highest award given by the Secret Service and will be presented to 67 special agents and other employees, whose courageous actions on September 11th were taken without regard for their own personal safety. Four individuals will be recognized with the agency's Lifesaving Award, for actions that saved the life of another person. The Director will also present Distinguished Service Awards to seven employees whose assistance to the New York Field Office was critical.

"For the Secret Service, our value is the sum of our people, who everyday commit themselves to duty, honor and country," Director Stafford said. "With these awards, we will pay tribute to those individuals who represent the character and spirit of our agency and the values that we hold true."

The Secret Service New York Field Office was located in 7 World Trade Center, which, along with Towers 1 and 2, collapsed following the terrorist attacks. One employee, Master Special Officer Craig Miller, died during the rescue efforts. Miller was temporarily assigned to New York in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly. Following the attacks, Secret Service employees were some of the first to respond with first aid trauma kits. Special agents assisted local fire and police rescue teams in establishing triage areas and helping evacuate people from the Towers.

Director Stafford will also recognize the collective efforts of the agency's Newark Field Office and John F. Kennedy Airport Resident Office for their efforts to evacuate and support the New York Field Office on September 11th and in the months following.

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“September 11th has forever changed the perception most Americans have of the dangers faced each day by police, firefighters, military and law enforcement personnel,” Director Stafford said. “The men and women of the United States Secret Service were among the thousands in New York who experienced those dangers first hand. The New York Field Office lost their office and a colleague on September 11th, but they never lost their focus or their determination to do what they could to help their fellow employees, and the citizens of New York.”

Established in 1865, the United States Secret Service protects our nation's leaders, visiting world leaders, national special security events, and the integrity of the nation's currency and financial systems. From 1870 to 1874, the agency was headquartered in New York City. Today, the New York Field Office is the agency's largest field office in the United States and is actively involved both of the Secret Service's missions – protection and investigations.

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