Wiltshire Police Wins World Class Policing Award For Its Response To Novichok Attack

Wiltshire Police has won a prestigious World Class Policing Award in recognition of its ‘outstanding’ response to the 2018 Novichok attacks in Salisbury and Amesbury.

As the severity of the poisoning emerged, the force declared a major incident, formed the LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) and led a multi-agency approach in dealing with it.

The threat of the nerve agent Novichok to public health had never been encountered before and the whole operation took place under the glare of the world’s media.

The SCG contained the risk to the wider public, reassured them and cleaned up the affected areas quickly and efficiently.

The police led operation saw the force work with several agencies including Wiltshire Council, The Ministry of Defence, the NHS and other Government bodies.

The force and partners beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 outstanding entries from across the globe, to win a trophy at the new event recognising outstanding police work from across the world.

It was a complex operation with emerging and unprecedented risks and updates happening constantly, but exceptional leadership and partnership working was brought together to minimise harm to the general population.

Judges commented that this was a “world class, world leading, complex response to one of the significant global events of 2018.”

A spokesman added: “The collaborative partnership response in the meeting and the need to establish new processes to handle sensitive and secret communications at the highest levels of Government, UKIC and CT Policing whilst working in the glare of local, national and international publicity was extraordinary.

“As one of the smallest forces in the United Kingdom, Wiltshire’s ability to cope with the influx of policing support from 42/43 UK forces; ensuring the working conditions of staff; the management of danger that staff and members of the community were in and also ensuring outstanding stakeholder management to explain that the response was being driven effectively was frankly extraordinary.”
The World Class Policing Awards are sponsored by Accenture.

The Awards specifically recognise and celebrate the collaborative nature of policing - whether that is a brilliant investigation, a business change project or a multi-agency partnership - in delivering the most effective and efficient way to protect our communities and keep them safe.

Attendees at the Awards – which took place at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London - included Chief Police officers from across the Globe as well as winners, their partners and sponsors. They were presented by experienced broadcaster Jeremy Vine.

Notes to Editors:

- Media enquiries should be directed to Martis Media via natalie@martismedia.co.uk
- More information about the awards can be found at www.worldclasspolicing.com
- The hashtag for the event was #WorldClassPolicing
- More information about the awards can be found at www.worldclasspolicing.com
- The inaugural World Class Policing Awards took place 14 November, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Park Lane, London. Six winners were announced at the ceremony, one of which was named the overall winner. There were also six commendations.
- The 54 finalists were selected from over 100 entries received from UK and overseas police forces.
- The World Class Policing Awards are led by a Steering Committee experienced in policing and managing projects in the police sector, as well as expertise in running successful police events: Stephen Kavanagh QPM, former Chief Constable of Essex Police and Chair of the World Class Policing Awards Steering Committee, Paul Leeks, MD of Glasgows - the awards and events specialists who have delivered the Bravery Awards for the Police Federation of England and Wales for the past eight years, Allan Fairley, UK Public Safety MD for Accenture and Chair of techUK’s Justice & Emergency Services Committee, Ian Barrett - CoPaCC Director and publishing professional in the police sector with experience developing and delivering the Police Review Gala Awards and Bernard Rix, Publisher of Policing Insight.
- The awards are supported by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the Police Federation of England & Wales (PFEW), the Police Superintendents Association (PSA), the College of Policing (CoP), the Police ICT Company (PICTCo) and Tech UK.
- The Founder Sponsors of the awards are Accenture, Sopra Steria, Chorus Intelligence, Grant Thornton and KPMG. Dinner is sponsored by Amazon Web Services and the Drinks Reception by NICE.
- Policing Insight (policinginsight.com) and Police Oracle (policeoracle.com) are the official Media Partners for the World Class Policing Awards 2019.

For information about the awards or the nominations process, contact: wcpa@glasgows.co.uk or call: +44 (0) 1772 767782