



THOMAS A. CONSTANTINE
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK STATE POLICE

TROOP E HEADQUARTERS
P.O. BOX 25220
CANANDAIGUA NEW YORK 14425-0220

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

December 16, 1991

Trooper Steven M. Kelley
New York State Police
Waterloo, New York

Dear Trooper Kelley,

On December 7, 1991, Rolf Rahn [address redacted] shot and wounded Kevin L. St. John in the chest with a .25 cal. pistol during a dispute over missing tools. Rahn held St. John captive for approximately two hours after which St. John was able to escape and seek assistance from a neighbor.

Thus began a 16-hour barricaded subject situation during which attempts to persuade Rahn into surrendering met with negative results. Face-to-face negotiations as well as a four-hour telephone conversation were to no avail. It was readily apparent Rahn was not in full control of his mental faculties.

At 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, December 8, 1991, Rahn stepped outside and was engaged in conversation by the hostage negotiator. Rahn began making threats to kill him and others present. Three minutes after his appearance Rahn pulled a .25 cal. semi-automatic from his bathrobe pocket, palming it at first, then aiming it directly at the negotiator. A volley of rounds were fired by seven members and Rahn succumbed to his wounds approximately 6 1/2 hours later.

I wish to personally thank you for the part you played during the standoff. You are commended for enduring the hours of tedium and for the professionalism you displayed. Your actions and efforts were a credit to yourself and the New York State Police.

Very truly yours,

Major John J. McQueeney
Troop "E" Commander

JJM:pc