

# Memo

**To:** Sgt. Smith ( Florida Highway Patrol Marathon )  
**From:** Sgt. Sam Cassel ( Monroe County Sheriff's Dept. Marathon )  
**Date:** March 24, 2002  
**Re:** Trooper Josh Eary and Trooper Jason Krajnyak ( letter of commendation )

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Sgt. Smith, I would like to personally commend both these officers for an outstanding job and the professionalism they demonstrated during a recent situation here in marathon. On March 19<sup>th</sup>. At approximately 8:59pm this agency received a call in reference to a disturbance located at 301 25<sup>th</sup>. Street. Upon arrival of the deputies and speaking with the complainant, this was no ordinary disturbance. The neighbor advised us that a tenant next door was acting irrational when he approached to see how he was doing. The suspect appeared to be distraught and had made the comment earlier that he was going to kill as many police officers as possible if they respond to his trailer then take his own life during the shoot out. The neighbor was unsure if he was still in the trailer or not. The trailer appeared to be locked. During a quick inspection through the trailer windows a gun bag was seen sitting in the bathroom sink but no sight of the suspect in the trailer. At that point we heard a faint voice coming from within the trailer trying to entice us closer. We immediately retreated and call for additional units to assist in the situation so that a inside perimeter could be set up due to the suspects possible motives.

While the Sheriff's office was securing the scene and attempting to vacate residences we heard a single gun shot come from within the trailer. It was unknown whether said shot was a decoy or whether he was shooting at the officers. Both trooper Eary and trooper Krasjnyak arrived on scene and without hesitation approached me asking what they could do to assist. They along with other officer were instrumental in keeping a inside perimeter and assisted in the evacuation of approximately 20 trailers so that no civilians or officers got hurt.

Said perimeter was kept until the special response team arrived. It was later determined that the suspect fatally shot himself within the trailer. This could have been a very serious situation. With the greatly appreciated assistance of both the troopers on the scene, no civilian or officers were hurt.

It is truly a pleasure to work with both trooper Eary and trooper Krajnyak. It is clearly evident of both officer's dedication and professionalism to their chosen profession. I personally wish to thank both officers for the outstanding job they done. We all know that Law Enforcement is one big family, and I'm glad they are part of it.