



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO



# MEDIA ADVISORY

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**SENT: November 16, 2006**

**What:** News conference showing off specially designed plaques that honor police employees who are serving on active military duty.

**When:** 11 a.m. on Friday, November 17, 2006

**Where:** In front of SDPD headquarters, 1401 Broadway St.

**Contact:** Detective Gary Hassen, (619) 531-2900

The San Diego Police Department, along with the families of ten police department employees, will unveil specially designed plaques. The plaques are part of a permanent display honoring police employees that are serving on active military duty. The newly mounted plaques will join the thirty five plaques that currently adorn the police headquarters building.

In addition to the name of the employee, each plaque has a large, blue, five-point star. During World War II, as a show of support, families who had loved ones serving on active duty would place a small cloth flag that bore a similar blue, five-point star, in the window of their homes.

The San Diego Police Department revived the blue star tradition in 1991, during Operation Desert Storm when it created a blue star plaque honoring employees who were called to active military duty. The San Diego Police Department continued the tradition at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

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