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**Brian Kozak**  
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Date of Release: December 23, 2025

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Laramie County Sheriff's Office Honors Personnel at Awards Banquet**

CHEYENNE, WY — On December 9th, 2025, the Laramie County Sheriff's Office held its 2025 awards ceremony to recognize the exceptional bravery, teamwork, and professional dedication displayed by its deputies, and civilian employees over the past year. Below is a breakdown of some of the 99 awards given at this year's event.

#### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD**

**Cpl. Zachary Chambers** was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for exceptional leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to the mission of the Laramie County Sheriff's Office. Corporal Chambers has distinguished himself through his dedication to the future of this agency, providing over 550 hours of Field Training Officer (FTO) instruction. Beyond his role as a trainer, he has provided vital stability by serving as a shift supervisor during critical leadership transitions and has taken the initiative to improve booking efficiency. Corporal Chambers' steady influence and commitment to the success of his colleagues make him an invaluable asset to the team.

**Cpl. Juan Martinez** was awarded the Meritorious Service Award for sustained excellence, unrivaled dedication, and outstanding contributions to the Laramie County Sheriff's Office. Corporal Martinez embodies the spirit of 'Riding for the BRAND' through his proactive leadership and selfless service. His recognition as the **2025 Wyoming Detention Deputy of the Year** stands as a testament to the elite standard of professionalism he maintains. With an incredible 657.5 hours dedicated to the Field Training Officer program, he has been instrumental in shaping the future of this agency. Whether volunteering for difficult assignments or mentoring new deputies, Cpl. Martinez is always up to the task.

#### **LIFESAVING AWARDS**

On July 13, 2025, the swift and decisive actions of detention and medical staff directly resulted in the preservation of a human life. Upon discovering an inmate in the midst of a suicide attempt, Deputy Goularte initiated emergency protocols, bringing Sgt. Tisher and Cpl. Cruz to the scene. These officers successfully lowered the unresponsive individual and prepared him for immediate medical intervention.

The medical team—Nurses Gallegos, Parker, Summer, Thillet, and Walter—demonstrated extraordinary clinical skill under pressure, performing CPR and AED intervention despite a grim initial prognosis. Because of the relentless dedication and coordination of these eight

individuals, the inmate survived. We are honored to present this Lifesaving Award to: Sgt. Tim Tisher, Cpl. Miclo Cruz, Deputy Preston Goularte, and Nurses Adrianna Gallegos, Brittany Parker, Stacie Thillet, and Maristie (MJ) Walter.

**Cpl. Miclo Cruz** was awarded the Lifesaving Award for his decisive action on March 24, 2025. Following an uncooperative arrestee being brought into the detention facility, Corporal Cruz observed that the individual became unresponsive and began to seize. Recognizing pinpointed pupils as a clinical sign of a narcotic overdose, Corporal Cruz immediately administered 4 mg of Naloxone. His rapid diagnosis and intervention stopped the seizure and restored the individual to a coherent state prior to transport to Cheyenne Regional Medical Center.

**Deputy Preston Goularte** was awarded the Lifesaving Award for exceptional attentiveness and rapid emergency response on April 13, 2025. While conducting a routine area check and razor collection in F Pod, Deputy Goularte's sharp attention to detail led him to discover blood on a razor. Upon further investigation, he located an inmate who had sustained self-inflicted injuries and was attempting suicide by hanging.

Deputy Goularte immediately declared a '10-Adam' emergency and, upon the arrival of backup, led the entry into the cell. By swiftly cutting and removing the ligature, he restored the inmate's ability to breathe and stabilized the situation.

**Deputy Adam Hall and Deputy Andrew Seely** were awarded the Lifesaving Award for their swift action and life-saving intervention on July 6, 2025. They responded to a call involving a 16-year-old female with a severe self-inflicted injury. Recognizing that manual pressure was insufficient to control the life-threatening hemorrhage, the deputies immediately deployed and successfully applied a tourniquet. Their decisive actions effectively stopped the bleeding, keeping the juvenile alive to be transported to the hospital for further care.

**Deputy Ryan Mershon** was awarded the Lifesaving Award for his response to an unresponsive female on July 20, 2025. Recognizing the severity of the situation, he successfully deployed his Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and initiated Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). His swift assessment and persistent life-saving efforts resulted in the patient being transported to the hospital with a pulse.

**Deputy James Ruiz** was awarded the Lifesaving Award for his vigilance and decisive action on September 11, 2025. While assigned to the Restrictive Housing Unit, Deputy Ruiz identified an inmate acting suspiciously and discovered a makeshift ligature. As the inmate attempted to suspend himself from the upper tier railing, Deputy Ruiz acted without hesitation. Utilizing his safety shears, he successfully cut through the ligature at the critical moment the inmate lost his footing, resulting in a safe drop of only a few feet.

## **UNIT AWARDS**

**Detention Court Security Unit** were awarded the Unit Citation for their exceptional performance over the past year. By maintaining a secure and uninterrupted environment for court proceedings, this team has demonstrated unparalleled dedication to the citizens of Laramie County. Their seamless teamwork and communication—particularly during high-profile trials and incidents noted by Wyoming State Supreme Court Justice Fenn—exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and resiliency."

**Detention A-Squad** were awarded the Unit Citation award for exceptional performance, adaptability, and professionalism during July 2025. On July 18th, A-Squad successfully executed the opening of the Charles/David Unit during the peak of Cheyenne Frontier Days. This complex operation involved the safe movement of inmates—including 12 on special status—requiring precise coordination and high-security protocols. Furthermore, on July 25th, while managing facility construction and a water outage, the squad effectively resolved a '10-Adam' emergency. Their calm response to a non-compliant inmate ensured the safety of staff and the securement of the individual without injury. A-Squad's ability to maintain order under pressure reflects the highest standards of professionalism.

**Detention D-Squad & Supporting Personnel** were awarded the Unit Citation for exceptional teamwork, life-saving intervention, and steadfast commitment to facility security. Over the past year, Detention D-Squad and various assisting employees demonstrated extraordinary professionalism by successfully performing life-saving measures on two inmates. In addition to these critical incidents, the team maintained seamless facility security during five separate power outages, ensuring the safety of both staff and the inmate population. Despite numerous encounters with violent individuals, D-Squad's tactical proficiency resulted in zero staff injuries. Their resilience and dedication to the Laramie County Sheriff's Office and the community have earned them this Unit Citation.

**Patrol Squad 1** were awarded the Unit Citation for exceptional teamwork, and investigative skill demonstrated on August 20, 2025. Following a theft incident, Deputy Cabrera's swift analysis of surveillance footage provided the critical identification of the suspect and vehicle. This information was forwarded to Deputy Poteet who located the suspect's residence and identified the stolen property. During the search warrant execution, the team successfully managed a high-risk barricaded suspect situation where the individual was concealed in a hidden compartment. Through the combined efforts of Patrol Squad 1 and the specialized assistance of Cheyenne PD Officer Vapenik and K9 Rogue, the suspect was apprehended and over \$10,000.00 in stolen property was recovered.

**Patrol Squad 3** were awarded the Unit Citation for exceptional professionalism, dedication, and investigative perseverance on June 13, 2025. Upon responding to a shooting incident,

Patrol Squad 3 encountered a high-stress scene involving a deceased victim, an uncooperative individual, and a young mother with an infant. Through disciplined scene management and coordination with the Wyoming Highway Patrol, the squad successfully secured the area and apprehended the suspect upon his return to the scene. The team's intentional work and tireless commitment throughout a grueling investigation led to the suspect being charged with 2nd Degree Murder.

"The professionalism and resiliency shown by these individuals represent the very best of our agency," said Sheriff Brian Kozak. "Whether saving a life in the detention center or investigating complex crimes in the field, these award recipients have demonstrated a profound commitment to our community."



*Riding for the BRAND as one team to fight crime!*