

Securitas North America annually recognizes one security officer for heroism and one for outstanding performance. The Security Officer of the Year recipients are chosen based on nominations from their colleagues and managers. In addition to any local presentations or recognition they might receive, the selected officers receive a commemorative plaque and a cash award. This year Security Officer Nicholas “Nikko” Lachance was recognized for his outstanding performance at the private school where he works, and Security Officer Theodore “Theo” Vaughn was honored for his heroic response when he saw a person trapped in a vehicle that was on fire.

2022 Security Officers of the Year



Security Officers of the Year, Security Officer Nicholas "Nikko" Lachance and Security Officer Theodore "Theo" Vaughn

As part of their recognition, Officer of the Year recipients are invited to one of Securitas USA's quarterly leadership meetings to be celebrated by North America Division leaders. This year's meeting took place at the Securitas Operations Center, in Charlotte, NC where recipients had the opportunity to mingle with and be applauded by employees and leaders. For Officer Vaughn the trip was especially meaningful because he

was accompanied by his 11-year-old son who got to witness firsthand the respect and admiration that Securitas USA had for his father's contributions. It was also the first time either father or son had traveled by air, making the trip even more exciting.

Vaughn was also accompanied by Area Vice President Jeremy Jackson who recounted his officer's actions with pride. Vaughn humbly responded that it had been an honor to be of service.

When presented with his award Vaughn told those assembled, "I love working for Securitas. I do my best to uphold our values and high standards and to encourage other officers to do the same."

District Manager James Polimeno, who accompanied Officer Lachance, was excited to relate how as a young officer who was new to both the company and the client site, Nikko had quickly distinguished himself.

I sincerely want to thank you. You've both made a tremendous impact, saving a life and helping a child. You made bad situations better, but I want you to know that we're also proud of the work you do day in and day out.

—Securitas North America President and CEO
Greg Anderson

"He learned very quickly on site," he said. "The school couldn't be prouder of Nikko for the actions he took to help a distressed young child. They try to get involved with the local community and helping reunite a young child with his concerned family certainly reflected well on the school," Polimeno explained.

Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson acknowledged the contributions of both officers, thanking them on behalf of all Securitas USA employees but also sharing his personal appreciation. "I sincerely want to thank you. You've both made a tremendous impact, saving a life and helping a child," he said. "You made bad situations better, but I want you to know that we're also proud of the work you do day in and day out," he concluded.

A celebratory lunch followed the presentation ceremony, after which the officers had a chance to get to know each other better while taking in the local sights and tastes during a tour of the city. They wrapped up their adventure with more



Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson talks at Securitas USA's quarterly leadership meeting held at the Securitas Operations Center in Charlotte, NC



(l-r) Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson, Northeast District Manager James Polimeno, Security Officer Nicholas "Nikko" Lachance, and Northeast Region President Doug Olcott

conversation over a relaxing meal. Please join us in congratulating our 2022 Security Officers of the Year!

Performance— Nicholas Lachance

The Security Officer of the Year award for performance recognizes a security officer who consistently provides excellent service and demonstrates outstanding performance. Although he hasn't been with the company long, this year's recipient is no stranger to recognition, having previously received a Northeast Region service recognition and award Employee of the Month. Since joining Securitas USA last year, Security Officer Nicholas "Nikko" Lachance has been recognized consistently for helping to provide a safe and secure environment for our client at Cushing Academy, a private boarding school in the Northeast Region, as well as to the community which surrounds the school.

I work hard every day
and I believe in doing
what is right. I take great
pride in what I do.

—Northeast Region Security Officer
Nicholas "Nikko" Lachance

Officer Lachance's post requires him to work the overnight shift at a small New England boarding school that is home to approximately 400 high school-age students. He is responsible for securing the school property at the beginning of



(l-r) Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson, Northeast District Manager James Polimeno, and Security Officer Nicholas "Nikko" Lachance

his shift and opening it up in the morning. He uses Vision on his campus security tours to help ensure that the six academic buildings and eight dormitories are secured. He also conducts vehicle patrols around campus and responds and facilitates communication with first responders, in the event of an emergency.

The boarding school has a large global student population. Officer Lachance demonstrates cultural sensitivity by adapting his interactions with students based on their culture. The awareness and respect he shows for their differences makes him approachable, and the students feel extremely comfortable talking with him and speaking to him about a variety of topics.

On a cold December evening Officer Lachance demonstrated his commitment to our values and purpose in a tangible

and impactful way. While conducting a routine security patrol of the perimeter of the campus, he observed a young child walking in the street. As Officer Lachance drew closer, he noticed the child was crying and not dressed appropriately for the weather. Pulling the security vehicle over, he approached and gently asked the child if he was alright. The child confessed that he had run away from home and was cold. Officer Lachance immediately invited him to sit in the security vehicle to warm up. Officer Lachance contacted the local police department who informed him that the child had been reported missing by the parents. Officer Lachance returned with the child to the security office on campus where they were met by the police and the child was reunited with his relieved family. The client, police, and family of the child all expressed their appreciation to Officer

Lachance for intervening to offer comfort, warmth, and safety to the distressed child in his time of need and helping to return him to his family.

Officer Lachance was named Officer of the Month for the MetroWest District for his actions demonstrating his commitment to helping make the world a safer place. He was astounded to learn that he'd also been selected as Security Officer of the Year for Performance. "I work hard every day and I believe in doing what is right," he said as he tried to take in the fact that he'd be accorded the North America Division-level honor. "I take great pride in what I do."

Officer Lachance is a valued member of the Cushing Academy community and security team, and the client was thrilled that he had been recognized for his vigilance and dedicated service. They plan to host a congratulatory event in honor of his Officer of the Year Recognition. Later an article in the school newspaper will introduce him to anyone who hasn't had a chance to get to know him, yet.

Heroism—Theodore (Theo) Vaughn

The Security Officer of the Year award for Heroism is presented to a security officer who performs an act that demonstrates courage, daring, professionalism, and self-sacrifice while helping to protect people or property. Security Officer Theodore "Theo" Vaughn works at two shopping centers owned by the same property management company and is well known for the excellent client-focused service he provides. The impression was reinforced



(l-r) Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson, Security Officer Theodore "Theo" Vaughn, Area Vice President Jeremy Jackson, and Pacific Region President John Campbell



(l-r) Securitas North America President and CEO Greg Anderson with Security Officer Theodore "Theo" Vaughn and his son

I knew immediately that I was going to nominate him for the Heroism Award.

—Area Vice President Jeremy Jackson

when he likely saved the life of one of the center's patrons.

The patron had passed out while smoking a cigarette in his truck after having dental work done. The smoldering cigarette caused the truck to ignite. While on patrol, Officer Vaughn noticed the vehicle on fire with a person passed out inside. Realizing there was no time to waste he rushed to the vehicle and pulled the person to safety. Unfortunately, there was also live ammunition in the truck that began to fire off.

I love working for Securitas. I do my best to uphold our values and high standards and to encourage other officers to do the same.

—San Diego, CA Security Officer Theodore "Theo" Vaughn

Officer Vaughn took swift action to call 911 and keep other patrons at a safe distance from the fire. While waiting for emergency services to arrive, his calm, confident directions helped him successfully usher the shopping center's clientele to a safe area out of the path of discharging ammunition. Without Officer Vaughn's immediate response to help the person from his vehicle and keep others in the area away from the fire, the situation could have taken a tragic turn.

An experienced security professional, Officer Vaughn has been an asset to the San Diego Branch since joining Securitas

USA in 2020. He frequently receives compliments from the client and his colleagues for his service orientation.

Immediately after the incident, the client called Area Vice President Jeremy Jackson to recognize Officer Vaughn's professional and heroic management of the situation.

Jackson immediately drove to the client site where he witnessed the burnt vehicles and got the details of the incident. Patrons and employees who were at the shopping center echoed the client's praise for Officer Vaughn's quick action. The client presented him with a certificate and a gift card in appreciation for what he'd done. "I knew immediately that I was going to nominate him for the Heroism Award," Jackson said.

When he learned that he'd been selected as the Security Officer of the Year for Heroism, Officer Vaughn did not believe it at first. "He said, 'No way Jeremy. You're kidding, right?'," shared Jackson. But he was overcome by emotion when he realized that it wasn't a joke.

"I was just doing my job and trying to keep people safe. You would have done the same thing," Vaughn responded humbly, and as the reality of the situation sank in, he said, "Wow, this is such an honor."

Others were less shocked. "I am not surprised at all to hear that Theo is winning this award," said Pam Aguirre from the property management company. "He is such a great asset to our team here and to our patrons."

Vaughn's colleague, Security Officer Lynn Harper echoed Aguirre's sentiment. "Theo is a very special person and cares

about all of his coworkers and customers here at the center," she said.

Inspired by Values, Driven by Purpose

Officers Lachance and Vaughn demonstrate the Securitas values in action. Their service and dedication are a model for all employees, showing what it means to "Help make your world a safer place." In not taking our purpose and values for granted and going above and beyond expectations, they join a select group of officers who've been previously recognized. At the same time, they stand united with all security officers who, in the course of their duties, distinguish themselves through actions large and small and demonstrate what it means to be an Everyday Hero.

The Security Officers of the Year set the example for each of us. We owe these officers our deepest respect and gratitude. They establish the benchmark for what it means to wear our uniform. We are thankful for their service and the service of all our officers who stand post at client sites, delivering excellent service and helping to protect our clients and their employees, customers, and property.