

Franklin cop gets terrorism training

Home News Tribune 10/16/06

By **DAVID STEGON**
STAFF WRITER
dstegon@thnt.com

FRANKLIN — Township police Cpl. Philip Rizzo was recently recognized for outstanding achievement in the CAT Eyes Community Anti-Terrorism Training Institute, which teaches ordinary citizens to identify terrorists without using race or religion.

Rizzo is only one of five of roughly 1,000 instructors to reach a master's level after training more than 300 people in the past year, including four community-watch groups, Somerset County's Department of Public Works Watch, Somerset County Office of Emergency Management Coordinators and a church group.

"The next terrorist attack is not going to be stopped by the military or the police but an accountant or a secretary," said Mike Licata, president of CAT Eyes and a retired United States Air Force colonel. "Our goal is to teach everyday people to recognize who a terrorist is so they can alert the necessary authorities and stop a possible threat before it happens."

Rizzo enrolled in the program more than a year ago as a representative of the Police Department, but instructors come from all walks of life, not just law enforcement. The program was started in November 2001 in response to the attacks of Sept. 11 to empower citizens to help in the fight against terrorism.

Rizzo was awarded a trophy for his high number of people trained and elevated to master instructor status, along with a commendation from Rep. Rush Holt, D-12th Dist., at an Oct. 10 township council meeting.

More information about the CAT Eyes program is available at the program's Web site at www.cateyesprogram.com or by contacting Rizzo through the Franklin Police Department at (732) 873-5533.

David Stegon:

(732) 565-7251;