



**The American Legion**  
**Raleigh Post 1**  
**2009 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**  
**Officer Joe Mercer**  
**News Release**



The American Legion, Raleigh Post 1 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year is Officer Joe Mercer.

On Saturday, July 26, 2008 Officer Joe Mercer and his K-9 Jens responded to assist in the apprehension of an individual wanted for a violent carjacking. Officer Mercer stayed in the area for several hours waiting for the suspect to return to a vehicle the suspect was known to operate. The suspect was seen getting into the car; Officer Mercer initiated a pursuit of the suspect vehicle. The pursuit ended with the suspect crashing the vehicle into a tree. The suspect then attempted to elude officers on foot. Officer Mercer chased the suspect along with K-9 Jens. The suspect was cornered and refused to obey commands from Officer Mercer. The suspect attempted to retrieve a handgun from his pocket. Officer Mercer demonstrated great restraint and fast thinking by releasing K-9 Jens on the suspect which allowed Officer Mercer to disarm the suspect. Officer Mercer is a loving husband and father and attends Hope Community Church in Raleigh NC. Officer Mercer's bravery and devotion to duty has earned him the respect of his colleagues and the American Legion is proud to present him with this award.