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Press Release

October 3, 2007

[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Executive Director Elliot Sander, Bridges & Tunnels Acting President David Moretti Honor Heroic Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Officers

MTA Bridges and Tunnels gave its highest award, the Medal of Honor, to two Bridges and Tunnels Officers at a ceremony last week. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge officers, Richard Cupo of Eltingville, Staten Island and Heriberto Merrin of South Ozone Park, Queens, were honored for rescuing an assault victim held against her will in a vehicle crossing through the toll lane on September 4, 2006. Responding to the woman's call for help, the officers were able to remove her from the car to safety and arrest the three perpetrators. Inside the car they recovered a loaded nine-millimeter firearm and a controlled illegal substance.

MTA Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Elliot G. Sander, joined by Acting President David Moretti, presented the each man with the Medal of Honor, congratulating them for "extraordinary valor in the line of duty involving the protection of life at the risk of one's own."