



## United States Army Recruiting Command

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL ARMY RECRUITERS CATCH ROBBERS IN THE ACT**

**MILWAUKEE (August 28, 2002)** – Three U.S. Army soldiers made it their mission to foil the robbery of a Milwaukee restaurant last Sunday evening, August 25. Armed with only a cell phone, the three soldiers called 911 and followed the two suspects through downtown Milwaukee until police arrived and made the arrests.

While stopped at a traffic light, Sgt. 1st Class John Arvan, Staff Sgt. Christopher Voldarski, and Staff Sgt. Joel Olson observed several employees of Edwardo's Natural Pizza exiting the building through a side entrance. The employees were calling for help. In response, the three soldiers contacted 911 while pulling up to the front of the restaurant to see what was taking place inside. "It was like something from a movie. The two suspects were dressed in black and wore white masks with black hoods," explained Arvan. But once the suspects fled the restaurant, they removed their masks and left the scene on foot. "We wanted to take action to prevent their escape but were told by the employees that the men were carrying guns," said Olson who was driving the car. "We decided to follow them and continued to relay our location to the 911 dispatcher."

All three soldiers are assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion in Milwaukee and are stationed with Iron Mountain Company in the upper peninsula of Michigan. The three soldiers serve the communities of Escanaba, Ironwood, and Marquette. Company Commander, Captain David Patton, expressed his satisfaction with how the soldiers handled the situation but, at the same

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time, could not contain his surprise. “My initial reaction was one of disbelief,” remarked Patton.

“I’m just surprised they waited for the police. It would be more their style to wrestle the suspects to the ground and hold them until the police arrived.” His reaction was qualified with some background on the soldiers. Prior to accepting his current recruiting assignment, Arvan was an Army Ranger.

Voldarski has applied for Army Special Forces and Patton is sure he will succeed in this goal. “They definitely have unique training and are capable of handling such a situation. But, they put safety first and kept a cool head. That is to be commended.”

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