

Post Office honors police

By M.B. GILLIGAN
Post Correspondent

DALLAS - The Dallas Postmaster began his Customer Appreciation Day last Thursday by acknowledging his own appreciation for another group of public servants. The police chiefs of Dallas Borough and Dallas Township were awarded plaques, which showcase the new "United We Stand" postage stamp.

Karl L. Keck, postmaster, presented the plaques which read, in part, "Maintaining visibility in volatile areas, investigating incidents, enforcement of the laws that keep us civilized, and ensuring the public safety are some of the avenues traveled by the men and women in blue each and every day - The United States Postal Service at Dallas, PA recognizes the sacrifices,

motivation and talent demonstrated by these brave men and women" In addition to the plaques each police officer in the two forces will receive a lapel pin depicting the stamp.

Things have changed since the September 11 terrorist attacks. In addition to their usual duties, postal workers and police officers are also handling customers worried about tainted mail. "The Post Office here has handled three cases that all turned out to be negative," said Keck. "Since September 11, we receive a daily message about what we are going to do to maintain safety. Each employee is issued face protection, protective gloves and is aware of what symptoms to look for."

The entire U.S. Postal Service of 800,000 employees is watching out for all suspicious mail. "That is a giant force when



POST PHOTOS/M.B. GILLIGAN

Karl L. Keck, Dallas Postmaster, presented appreciation plaques to the Dallas police chiefs. From left: Bob Jolley, Dallas Township Chief of Police; Keck; Dallas Borough Police Chief Jack Fowler; Borough Commissioner Patricia Peiffer.

Police respond

(continued from page 1)

his department is receiving more faxes than ever on things to look for and how to respond to different situations the officers may encounter. Since the September 11 attacks, priorities in patrol zones have changed for the department. Officers are also taking more notice of passports they may encounter. Training is also playing a key in preparing officers.

"There's a lot of truck traffic that comes through here. We are a shortcut. Every place is a target."

John Fowler
Dallas Borough Police Chief

"Terrorism wasn't a priority at one time, until September 11," said Fowler. But with two main routes supplying traffic through the Back Mountain, it is now.

"There's a lot of truck traffic that comes through here. We are a shortcut," said Fowler. "Every place is a target."

Time is of the essence in preventing and solving any crime. For Fowler that means having the community act as the eyes and ears of the police force. "People have to realize that they have to wake up and get involved," Fowler said.

"Just look for anything out of the ordinary," said Fowler. He stresses the most important thing for citizens to do if they see something is to pick up the phone and dial 911.



Postal customer Bartt Slocum of Dallas is offered cake by postal clerk, Carol Sosik.

everyone is alert and vigilant in looking for problems in the mail," said Keck.

The Post Office sent each customer a post card listing steps to take if they should receive suspicious mail. They should look for oddities in packaging like too much tape, a lot of postage stamps, no return address or a questionable return address. Such packages should be placed in a bag and isolated and the customer should call 911.

"We've also met with our large mailers and told them how to

"Some calendars used to come with baby powder in them to keep the pages from sticking together."

Karl L. Keck
Dallas Postmaster

improve their mail techniques," said Keck. "Some calendars

used to come with baby powder in them to keep the pages from sticking together. We're changing that and also asking that samples, like detergents, not go into the mail any more."

Customer Appreciation Days happen four times a year at the Dallas Post Office and clerk Carol Sosik usually does the planning and bakes a cake. This time the cake depicted a replica of the "United We Stand" postage stamp. In addition to the cake, coffee, juice and chocolates were available to customers throughout the day. "It's a small gesture to say thank you to our customers," said Keck.

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