

## INTRADPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

November 21, 2013  
15.1

**TO:** Commanding Officer, Major Crimes Division  
Commanding Officer, Emergency Services Division  
Commanding Officer, Metropolitan Division  
Commanding Officer, Air Support Division  
Commanding Officer Emergency Operations Division

**FROM:** Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau


**SUBJECT:** COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU-WIDE  
TRAINING DAY

Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau will be hosting a bureau-wide training day on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 0800-1200 hours, at the Ronald F. Deaton Civic Auditorium. Matthew Schrier, a noted photojournalist who escaped from Syria after seven months in captivity will talk about his extraordinary ordeal and the anguish of leaving a fellow hostage behind.

Matthew Schrier, from Syosset, New York, was captured by Jabhat al-Nusra, a militant group aligned with Al-Qaeda, during his first trip to a war zone while traveling in Syria in December 2012. During his captivity, Schrier was beaten with a metal cable across his feet and given electrical shocks. Moreover, Schrier was economically exploited and extorted. Schrier finally escaped from the clutches of his captors on July 29, 2013, after managing to squeeze through a tiny window in his cell.

Matthew Schrier is a graduate of Hofstra University where he received his degree in film production. In November 2012, Schrier started his own business and traveled to Turkey, Syria, and Jordan to photograph Syrian refugees, as a volunteer for the Syrian American Medical Society. Schrier is a published author with publications in the National Geographic and New York Times, just to name a few.

Any questions regarding this training may be directed to Detective III Marco Lozano, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, at (213) 486-8780.

  
MICHAEL P. DOWNING, Deputy Chief  
Commanding Officer  
Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

Attachment

**COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU-WIDE  
TRAINING DAY  
RONALD F. DEATON CIVIC AUDITORIUM  
DECEMBER 3, 2013, 0800-1200 HOURS**

**AGENDA**

0800-0830	Opening Remarks & Introductions	Deputy Chief Michael P. Downing Captain Steven S. Sambar Commander Blake Chow
0830-0930	Part 1: Photographer Matthew Schrier will give a detailed description of the torture he suffered at the hands of Syrian rebels who held him captive in a dark cell for seven months after accusing him of working for the C.I.A.	Matthew Schrier
0930-0945	BREAK	
0945-1045	Part 2: Matthew Schrier's escape from the hands of the Syrian rebels and the unfortunate circumstances of having to leave his cellmate and friend behind.	
1045-1100	BREAK	
1100-1200	Debrief – Questions & Answers	
1200	Closing Remarks	Deputy Chief Michael P. Downing Commander Blake Chow Captain Steven S. Sambar