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Transit Security officers James Pochick, center, and Enrique Ortiz received commendations from Lt. James Cook.

Transit Security Officer Foil Switchblade Incident

(March 4, 2004) Two Transit Security officers recently foiled what might have been a nasty incident involving a taxi driver, his passenger and a switchblade knife.

Officers James Pochick and Enrique Ortiz were on patrol at the Metro Green Line's Norwalk station in the wee hours of Feb. 15.

A cab screeched to a halt in the parking lot, the cabbie jumped out and ran up to the officers. His passenger had pulled a knife on him and threatened to cut his throat, he told the officers, unless he took him to find crack cocaine.

Pochick and Ortiz approached the cab and ordered the man to step out. He was told to place his hands on the trunk and spread his legs for a "pat down."

Instead, the suspect allegedly reached into his waistband and pulled out a 7-inch switchblade. The officers ordered him to drop the knife. After a tense moment, the man let it fall to the ground.

Now more cooperative, the man was frisked for other weapons and handcuffed. Shortly afterward, he was taken into custody by deputies from the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau.

