



## Letter of Award Distinguished Service Medal



To: Detective Greg Vandenberg  
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police  
Date: February 13, 2019  
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Recently, Captain Arleth nominated you for the Medal of Merit, however, after the Special Awards Committee reviewed and discussed this nomination, it was clear by all of the input that you are better deserving of the Distinguished Service Medal. The Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) is awarded to employees who have demonstrated outstanding sustained and exemplary performance along with diligence and devotion to duty. The performance should exceed normal demands required or expected over an extended period of time. In his nomination, Captain Arleth wrote:

"In 2015, Det. Greg Vandenberg assumed the role of handling the process of reviewing and forwarding in-custody arrest documents to the prosecutor's office. The volume of work Det. Vandenberg faces each week is incredible, based on the activity of field officers. The rate of work has only increased, with the addition of officers to the department. The change from Xpediter to New World LERMS compounded the amount of work Det. Vandenberg faces.

Det. Vandenberg is the lynchpin of SPD success for the process of oversight of reports moving through the process to get to the other criminal justice system consumers of incident and case reports. Every day, Det. Vandenberg contacts officers for supplemental information on reports, provides training on LERMS, files patrol search warrants with the courts, and performs other tasks that support the entire organization.

To make sure that everything is correct he has to read all reports, and confirm that the best property reports are correct, warrants have been filed, and photos are in case guard. If mistakes are evident, he has the ability and knowledge to take possession of the documents in New World to make corrections. If there are major issues with cases, he contacts individual Officers to instruct and teach them on correct documentation and charging. He will take it upon himself to write addendum affidavits, if the elements of the crime are not met in a patrol case. Once the case is filed, the prosecutor can send the case back for further investigation or for additional corrections. Greg has the drive to attempt to correct the mistakes and do additional work on these cases, and this extraordinary level of service has become expected of him.

Prosecutors also expect Greg to test firearms, run to the crime lab, check out property and a variety of other tasks. Greg has also taken on the filing of patrol search warrants. When graveyard or power shift has a search warrant completed, they will leave it in a box in the Sergeant's office. If corrections are needed, Greg will research the problem and find a solution. He then files the search warrant with the County clerk, and makes sure the documents are merged.

Another area that Greg has an expert level knowledge in is New World and LERMS. Greg is not only an instructor and trainer for the programs, but he is also constantly fielding questions and problem solving for Officers and Detectives.

Greg is also the first call for our property unit. He is contacted to clear property, release vehicles, and take things to the crime lab for testing. This creates another large work load, as each incident needs the historical perspective before a decision can be made on what to do with the items.

Detective Vandenberg is incredibly valuable to this department. His knowledge, expertise, and dependability are without comparison."

Det. Vandenberg, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file and you will be recognized at the Annual SPD Employee Award Ceremony in March 2019.

  
Craig Meidl, Chief of Police