



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Sergeant David Adams
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2021
Re: Chief's Citation Award— Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre

The Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre has been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre is most deserving of this award.

During the third week of March 2020, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) 804 was beginning week five of seventeen in Spokane at our Training Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise in virulence and uncertainty, on March 17, in the interest of student and staff safety, WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr ordered the immediate closure of both the Burien and Spokane BLEA campuses. 36 student recruits from multiple eastern Washington agencies went home from Spokane to await further instructions, their long-awaited and fought-for careers in law enforcement on an indefinite hold.

WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr tasked her staff in Spokane with creating a way to re-open BLEA 804 with an eye to maximum possible safety in light of what scientists began discovering about COVID-19. At the time, COVID-19 medical knowledge was a moving target. The effectiveness of various types of facemasks was uncertain, what disinfectants might be effective to help stop the virus' spread were unknown, and the phrase and practice "social distancing" was an unheard of concept. The rules about how many people could be in one place at one time, and under what circumstances, changed on a near-daily basis. The Spokane-BLEA campus, staffing, and instructional models were never designed for these circumstances.

Working together and utilizing an "out-of-the-box" problem-solving method, the BLEA Assistant Commander, TAC Officers, Course Instructors, and ancillary staff such as Mock Scene Evaluators and Range Safety Officers, designed a "Triple-BLEA" plan: they split BLEA 804 into three groups. Each group's instruction took place in different physical locations, and classroom and skills-based courses all juggled around each other in the Triple-BLEA schedule in order to retain the instructional flow of a standard 720-hour BLEA. BLEA staff would often facilitate an instructional topic for four hours in one location in the morning, and then travel across town to teach the same topic to another group. Personnel constantly adjusted work and personal life schedules to accomplish this feat.

Over the five months from March 2020 through July 2020, the Spokane-BLEA training cadre became itinerant instructors. Courses were constantly re-scheduled, re-located, and re-worked so delivery of the entire content of a normal 720-hour BLEA in the exceptional manner to which our statewide stakeholders are accustomed. This was all done with full COVID-19 safety compliance protocols, and no students or staff became affected. Additionally, even though the full re-start of BLEA 804 was two months delayed, the class graduated all 36 students only one month after the pre-set graduation date, much to the surprise and relief of our partnering agencies.

Although the success of this class belongs to all instructors who assisted with instruction of any and all topics, this commendation is being written to recognize those that headed up the effort, as they were integral to this enormous success in the face of the aforementioned, extraordinary challenges. Their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices for the greater good enabled communities across Washington State to receive their new Peace Officers back as quickly and well trained as possible despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

Sergeant Adams, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig N. Meidl".

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Holly Hocking
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2021
Re: Chief's Citation Award— Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre

The Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre has been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre is most deserving of this award.

During the third week of March 2020, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) 804 was beginning week five of seventeen in Spokane at our Training Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise in virulence and uncertainty, on March 17, in the interest of student and staff safety, WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr ordered the immediate closure of both the Burien and Spokane BLEA campuses. 36 student recruits from multiple eastern Washington agencies went home from Spokane to await further instructions, their long-awaited and fought-for careers in law enforcement on an indefinite hold.

WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr tasked her staff in Spokane with creating a way to re-open BLEA 804 with an eye to maximum possible safety in light of what scientists began discovering about COVID-19. At the time, COVID-19 medical knowledge was a moving target. The effectiveness of various types of facemasks was uncertain, what disinfectants might be effective to help stop the virus' spread were unknown, and the phrase and practice "social distancing" was an unheard of concept. The rules about how many people could be in one place at one time, and under what circumstances, changed on a near-daily basis. The Spokane-BLEA campus, staffing, and instructional models were never designed for these circumstances.

Working together and utilizing an "out-of-the-box" problem-solving method, the BLEA Assistant Commander, TAC Officers, Course Instructors, and ancillary staff such as Mock Scene Evaluators and Range Safety Officers, designed a "Triple-BLEA" plan: they split BLEA 804 into three groups. Each group's instruction took place in different physical locations, and classroom and skills-based courses all juggled around each other in the Triple-BLEA schedule in order to retain the instructional flow of a standard 720-hour BLEA. BLEA staff would often facilitate an instructional topic for four hours in one location in the morning, and then travel across town to teach the same topic to another group. Personnel constantly adjusted work and personal life schedules to accomplish this feat.

Over the five months from March 2020 through July 2020, the Spokane-BLEA training cadre became itinerant instructors. Courses were constantly re-scheduled, re-located, and re-worked so delivery of the entire content of a normal 720-hour BLEA in the exceptional manner to which our statewide stakeholders are accustomed. This was all done with full COVID-19 safety compliance protocols, and no students or staff became affected. Additionally, even though the full re-start of BLEA 804 was two months delayed, the class graduated all 36 students only one month after the pre-set graduation date, much to the surprise and relief of our partnering agencies.

Although the success of this class belongs to all instructors who assisted with instruction of any and all topics, this commendation is being written to recognize those that headed up the effort, as they were integral to this enormous success in the face of the aforementioned, extraordinary challenges. Their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices for the greater good enabled communities across Washington State to receive their new Peace Officers back as quickly and well trained as possible despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

Holly, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig N. Meidl".

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Officer Cory Lyons
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2021
Re: Chief's Citation Award— Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre

The Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre has been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre is most deserving of this award.

During the third week of March 2020, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) 804 was beginning week five of seventeen in Spokane at our Training Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise in virulence and uncertainty, on March 17, in the interest of student and staff safety, WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr ordered the immediate closure of both the Burien and Spokane BLEA campuses. 36 student recruits from multiple eastern Washington agencies went home from Spokane to await further instructions, their long-awaited and fought-for careers in law enforcement on an indefinite hold.

WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr tasked her staff in Spokane with creating a way to re-open BLEA 804 with an eye to maximum possible safety in light of what scientists began discovering about COVID-19. At the time, COVID-19 medical knowledge was a moving target. The effectiveness of various types of facemasks was uncertain, what disinfectants might be effective to help stop the virus' spread were unknown, and the phrase and practice "social distancing" was an unheard of concept. The rules about how many people could be in one place at one time, and under what circumstances, changed on a near-daily basis. The Spokane-BLEA campus, staffing, and instructional models were never designed for these circumstances.

Working together and utilizing an "out-of-the-box" problem-solving method, the BLEA Assistant Commander, TAC Officers, Course Instructors, and ancillary staff such as Mock Scene Evaluators and Range Safety Officers, designed a "Triple-BLEA" plan: they split BLEA 804 into three groups. Each group's instruction took place in different physical locations, and classroom and skills-based courses all juggled around each other in the Triple-BLEA schedule in order to retain the instructional flow of a standard 720-hour BLEA. BLEA staff would often facilitate an instructional topic for four hours in one location in the morning, and then travel across town to teach the same topic to another group. Personnel constantly adjusted work and personal life schedules to accomplish this feat.

Over the five months from March 2020 through July 2020, the Spokane-BLEA training cadre became itinerant instructors. Courses were constantly re-scheduled, re-located, and re-worked so delivery of the entire content of a normal 720-hour BLEA in the exceptional manner to which our statewide stakeholders are accustomed. This was all done with full COVID-19 safety compliance protocols, and no students or staff became affected. Additionally, even though the full re-start of BLEA 804 was two months delayed, the class graduated all 36 students only one month after the pre-set graduation date, much to the surprise and relief of our partnering agencies.

Although the success of this class belongs to all instructors who assisted with instruction of any and all topics, this commendation is being written to recognize those that headed up the effort, as they were integral to this enormous success in the face of the aforementioned, extraordinary challenges. Their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices for the greater good enabled communities across Washington State to receive their new Peace Officers back as quickly and well trained as possible despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

Officer Lyons, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig N. Meidl".

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Officer Daniel Strassenberg
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2021
Re: Chief's Citation Award— Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre

The Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre has been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre is most deserving of this award.

During the third week of March 2020, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) 804 was beginning week five of seventeen in Spokane at our Training Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise in virulence and uncertainty, on March 17, in the interest of student and staff safety, WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr ordered the immediate closure of both the Burien and Spokane BLEA campuses. 36 student recruits from multiple eastern Washington agencies went home from Spokane to await further instructions, their long-awaited and fought-for careers in law enforcement on an indefinite hold.

WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr tasked her staff in Spokane with creating a way to re-open BLEA 804 with an eye to maximum possible safety in light of what scientists began discovering about COVID-19. At the time, COVID-19 medical knowledge was a moving target. The effectiveness of various types of facemasks was uncertain, what disinfectants might be effective to help stop the virus' spread were unknown, and the phrase and practice "social distancing" was an unheard of concept. The rules about how many people could be in one place at one time, and under what circumstances, changed on a near-daily basis. The Spokane-BLEA campus, staffing, and instructional models were never designed for these circumstances.

Working together and utilizing an "out-of-the-box" problem-solving method, the BLEA Assistant Commander, TAC Officers, Course Instructors, and ancillary staff such as Mock Scene Evaluators and Range Safety Officers, designed a "Triple-BLEA" plan: they split BLEA 804 into three groups. Each group's instruction took place in different physical locations, and classroom and skills-based courses all juggled around each other in the Triple-BLEA schedule in order to retain the instructional flow of a standard 720-hour BLEA. BLEA staff would often facilitate an instructional topic for four hours in one location in the morning, and then travel across town to teach the same topic to another group. Personnel constantly adjusted work and personal life schedules to accomplish this feat.

Over the five months from March 2020 through July 2020, the Spokane-BLEA training cadre became itinerant instructors. Courses were constantly re-scheduled, re-located, and re-worked so delivery of the entire content of a normal 720-hour BLEA in the exceptional manner to which our statewide stakeholders are accustomed. This was all done with full COVID-19 safety compliance protocols, and no students or staff became affected. Additionally, even though the full re-start of BLEA 804 was two months delayed, the class graduated all 36 students only one month after the pre-set graduation date, much to the surprise and relief of our partnering agencies.

Although the success of this class belongs to all instructors who assisted with instruction of any and all topics, this commendation is being written to recognize those that headed up the effort, as they were integral to this enormous success in the face of the aforementioned, extraordinary challenges. Their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices for the greater good enabled communities across Washington State to receive their new Peace Officers back as quickly and well trained as possible despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

Officer Strassenberg, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police



Letter of Award Chief's Citation Award



To: Sergeant HJ Whapeles
From: Craig N. Meidl - Chief of Police
Date: January 22, 2021
Re: Chief's Citation Award— Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre

The Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre has been nominated to receive the Chief's Citation Award. This award is intended to recognize members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial, positive impact on the community or police department. It must be superior in nature and further the department's mission and overall effectiveness. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that the Spokane BLEA 804 Training Cadre is most deserving of this award.

During the third week of March 2020, the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission (WSCJTC) Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) 804 was beginning week five of seventeen in Spokane at our Training Center. As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to rise in virulence and uncertainty, on March 17, in the interest of student and staff safety, WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr ordered the immediate closure of both the Burien and Spokane BLEA campuses. 36 student recruits from multiple eastern Washington agencies went home from Spokane to await further instructions, their long-awaited and fought-for careers in law enforcement on an indefinite hold.

WSCJTC Executive Director Sue Rahr tasked her staff in Spokane with creating a way to re-open BLEA 804 with an eye to maximum possible safety in light of what scientists began discovering about COVID-19. At the time, COVID-19 medical knowledge was a moving target. The effectiveness of various types of facemasks was uncertain, what disinfectants might be effective to help stop the virus' spread were unknown, and the phrase and practice "social distancing" was an unheard of concept. The rules about how many people could be in one place at one time, and under what circumstances, changed on a near-daily basis. The Spokane-BLEA campus, staffing, and instructional models were never designed for these circumstances.

Working together and utilizing an "out-of-the-box" problem-solving method, the BLEA Assistant Commander, TAC Officers, Course Instructors, and ancillary staff such as Mock Scene Evaluators and Range Safety Officers, designed a "Triple-BLEA" plan: they split BLEA 804 into three groups. Each group's instruction took place in different physical locations, and classroom and skills-based courses all juggled around each other in the Triple-BLEA schedule in order to retain the instructional flow of a standard 720-hour BLEA. BLEA staff would often facilitate an instructional topic for four hours in one location in the morning, and then travel across town to teach the same topic to another group. Personnel constantly adjusted work and personal life schedules to accomplish this feat.

Over the five months from March 2020 through July 2020, the Spokane-BLEA training cadre became itinerant instructors. Courses were constantly re-scheduled, re-located, and re-worked so delivery of the entire content of a normal 720-hour BLEA in the exceptional manner to which our statewide stakeholders are accustomed. This was all done with full COVID-19 safety compliance protocols, and no students or staff became affected. Additionally, even though the full re-start of BLEA 804 was two months delayed, the class graduated all 36 students only one month after the pre-set graduation date, much to the surprise and relief of our partnering agencies.

Although the success of this class belongs to all instructors who assisted with instruction of any and all topics, this commendation is being written to recognize those that headed up the effort, as they were integral to this enormous success in the face of the aforementioned, extraordinary challenges. Their ingenuity, dedication, and sacrifices for the greater good enabled communities across Washington State to receive their new Peace Officers back as quickly and well trained as possible despite the COVID-19 global crisis.

Sergeant Whapeles, I am honored to present you with the Chief's Citation Award. A copy of this document will be placed in your personnel file.

Craig N. Meidl
Chief of Police