



Letter of Award Distinguished Service Medal



To: Lieutenant Dave Overhoff
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: February 1, 2021
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Recently, Captain Tracie Meidl nominated you for the Medal of Merit Award, however, when the Special Awards Committee reviewed the nomination, it was clear that you are more 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 her nomination, Captain Meidl wrote:

"Lt. Overhoff has been assigned to the South Precinct for over 3 years and during that time, has laid a foundation of teamwork and camaraderie. Dave's leadership style is inclusive and democratic, but also quick and decisive when warranted.

Since taking over the role of TAC Commander, Lt. Overhoff has reviewed every aspect of the Team, outlined specific expectations, and has provided his members the highest level of training and accountability.

Over the past 2 years, Lt. Overhoff has led the TAC Team on deployments to demonstrations and protests at Planned Parenthood, many occurring weekly. These events started out as inconsistent meetings organized by some community members and grew to be very large gatherings which garnered a great deal of media attention and additional protesters with varying opinions. These large scale events required a great deal of planning; safety and security of the venue and of the attendees, clear rules of engagement and assignments for the team members, complex staffing around regular patrol shift schedules, and detailed after-action reports. As these demonstrations continued to grow in numbers and in media attention, Lt. Overhoff continued to adjust the way the Team conducted their operations. He works with other SPD personnel and City Departments to facilitate investigations and reports of potential criminal activity, in order to hold all participants accountable for their behavior. This is not an easy task, as each incident within each event is looked at under extreme scrutiny and with hindsight. Lt. Overhoff continues to represent the Spokane Police Department in the best light possible.

This year has brought about even more complex issues, as nationwide protests broke out and created a divide between law enforcement and community members. Spokane experienced its first large scale protest-turned-riot on May 31. Lt. Overhoff led the TAC Team through the event that started out as a peaceful protest and march and then shifted to violent and riotous behavior. Until this day, the TAC Team had never been involved in such a tumultuous event, including looting and officers being struck with objects from the crowd. The Team, assisted by several neighboring agencies, was successful in stopping the behavior of the crowd and minimizing damage and injuries because of their training and leadership under Lt. Overhoff.

There have been many more demonstrations, protests, and events since that day. Many cities experienced mass destruction and murders of innocent people, but Spokane was not one of them. Lt. Overhoff has consistently continued to monitor, analyze, and create operational plans for these incidents, while coordinating with many other agencies and organizations, to support the safety and security of the community. He conducts tactical briefings, debriefings, and after action reports for nearly every TAC Team involved incident and has created a command structure within the Team to support its ongoing success. In addition to all of these events, Lt. Overhoff has been instrumental in bringing training, equipment, and personnel to the TAC Team to support a Bicycle Rapid Response Team (BRRT).

The TAC Team assignment is in addition to Lt. Overhoff's duty assignment at the South Precinct, requiring this extra work to be completed outside his normal work hours, work days, and job description. Lt. Overhoff accepts all of these responsibilities and continues to try and improve every area possible to leave behind a successful legacy."

Lt. Overhoff, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig Meidl".

Craig Meidl
Chief of Police