



Letter of Award Distinguished Service Medal



To: Sergeant Paul Buchmann
From: Craig N. Meidl, Chief of Police
Date: May 20, 2022
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Nate Spiering nominated you for 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. When the Special Awards Committee reviewed this nomination, it was clear that you are most deserving of this award. Included in Sgt. Spiering's nomination:

"Sgt. Paul Buchmann was hired by the Spokane Police Department in July of 2002. In addition to Patrol, he has held many different roles throughout his career including a brief position on the TAC team before being selected to the SWAT team in 2007. Paul has been a team operator, on the Sniper Team, SWAT team medic, assistant Team Leader, and was selected to Team Leader in 2021.

Sgt. Buchmann was one of four officers recognized in 2019 for his already six years of work, training and teaching of First Aid and Casualty Care. He and his team have taught medic care and response to people from all parts of our community. Paul's combination of SWAT tactical experience and Medic status made him a pivotal instrument in the development and successful implementation of the Spokane Fire Department Rescue Task Force teams. He is the SWAT Medic Team Leader, maintaining monthly team training as well as his own monthly on-line medic certification standards, and has led medical training for our entire department through dozens of in-service trainings.

Paul was selected to the K9 Unit in late 2013, becoming a patrol handler and SWAT team K9. He became a WSPCA Trainer, training at different statewide seminars. He attained his CJTC Evaluator status and in May of 2021, Paul was awarded the status of Master Trainer for apprehension K9 teams through WSPCA. He successfully mastered his first 400 hour Basic Handler course from January to March 2022, resulting in certification of the SPD K9 Unit's newest K9 team. Sgt. Buchmann is also an instructor for BLEA where he assists with teaching mock scenarios and patrol tactics, and leads both the Police K9 Introduction class and "Care After Fire."

One facet of police reform laws required CJTC to convene a work group of Law Enforcement and community members, tasked with generating a statewide model policy for the use of police canines. Sgt. Buchmann was selected to that work group, beginning several months of work. In December of 2021, CJTC released a solid model canine policy heavy with Paul's input and information. Paul remains on that work group, tasked with review of that same policy on a continued basis.

Sgt. Buchmann's dedication, effort and performance in these many roles for the entirety of his twenty year career, far exceed the normal demands of his position and he is most deserving of this award."

Sgt. Buchmann, 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 next Employee Award Ceremony.

Sincerely,

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

Craig Meidl, Chief of Police