

2003 CHIEF'S CITATION AWARD SEXUAL ASSAULT UNIT

The Chief's Citation Award is given to the members of a team or unit for participating in an incident, event, series of events or project which has had a substantial positive impact on the community or Police Department and which was superior in nature and furthered the Department's mission and overall effectiveness. After reviewing this nomination, it was clear that Police Dispatch was most deserving of this recognition.

In his nomination, Sgt. Anderson cited the superior effort and outstanding investigation that was accomplished by the Sexual Assault Unit at the end of 2002. In the early morning hours of November 15, 2002, an especially brutal home invasion rape was committed. This heinous and violent attack, rare in our community, fueled a great deal of media attention and caused concern throughout the Spokane community. By its very nature, this crime demanded immediate attention and successful resolution.

From the very beginning of the investigation, the Sexual Assault Unit tackled this crime with incredible zeal and purpose. Though the initial interviews and scene search turned up little hard evidence, a suspect was developed within a day. In a little under four days—after numerous search warrants, evidence collection, interviews, neighborhood canvasses, and just plain hard work—the suspect was taken into custody. Within a few more days, the suspect was also tied to other similar crimes in the county.

The speed in which the suspect was arrested was directly related to the team approach that was used from the very start. The investigators pooled together their talents and each took an active role in this investigation. Due to the complexity of this case, one lone detective would have been swamped and a successful conclusion probably would have taken weeks or maybe never. Instead, all four met daily to share information and divide the workload. The unit secretaries went above and beyond to quickly type the investigative reports and prepare the necessary court documents. "Team" and "team player" are often overused phrases. In this case "team" very much describes the actions of these investigators.

Crimes such as these that go unsolved can erode citizens' confidence in their police. Further, this type of predator, unless caught, can terrorize a community for years. On the other hand, an immediate and successful ending in such cases can foster both trust and support from the community. In short, an effective police department is a supported and respected department.

Each member of the Sexual Assault Unit was issued the Chief's Citation plaque and was recognized at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2004.

Members of the Sexual Assault Unit



Sergeant Martin Anderson
Detective Andy Anderson
Detective Neil Gallion
Detective Marty Hill
Detective Bill Marshall

Secretarial Staff

Carla Stamatoplos
Carolyn Brakel

