



Letter of Award

Distinguished Service Award

To: PFC Mel Taylor
From: Frank G. Straub, Chief of Police
Date: January 15, 2013
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Officer Mel Taylor was recently nominated 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 Officer Taylor is most deserving of this award.

PFC Taylor has served this department with distinction for over 25 years. Throughout this time, he has demonstrated exemplary performance, exceeding normal demands of a Spokane Police Officer. PFC Taylor currently serves on the Dignitary Protection Team is an EVOC Instructor, a Firearms Instructor and a Fitness Instructor. He previously served as an FTO and SWAT Team Member.

On April 22, 2012 Officer Taylor assisted Sgt. Braun by using his tactical knowledge and SWAT experience to set up a tactical response to a shooting call. His diligence and devotion to duty was noted this summer when, while recovering from surgery, he gave of his own time to lead Patrol Team 9 through a half-day firearms course and qualification. He also volunteers to represent SPD at community events: recruiting; Back to School; and Christmas shopping for he Salvation Army. PFC Taylor is one of four SPD officers to receive the Washington State Medal of Valor. He is also the recipient of the department's Silver Star and Lifesaving Medals. Additionally, in 1996 he was named Outstanding SWAT Team Leader. PFC Taylor provides outstanding service to the public in his role as a patrol officer and provides an excellent example to those officers working with him. He also recognizes others for their contributions and recently nominated Officer Gordon Grant for the Medal of Merit. In addition, Officer Taylor has served his community for the past year as a volunteer for the Meals on Wheel program.

Officer Taylor, I am proud to recognize you with the Distinguished Service Medal. You will be given the Distinguished Service Medal and uniform bar at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony on February 21, 2013. A copy of this document will be placed in your department personnel file.

Frank G. Straub, Jr.
Chief of Police