



Letter of Award Distinguished Service Award

To: Sergeant Terry Preuninger
From: Rick Dobrow, Chief of Police
Date: December 11, 2015
Re: Distinguished Service Medal

Sergeant Terry Preuninger was recently nominated for the Distinguished Service Medal by Lt. Steve Wohl and Sgt. Kevin Keller. 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 Sergeant Preuninger is most deserving of this award:

"This June, Terry completed twenty years of service with our SWAT Team. Terry not only completed twenty years on Spokane SWAT, he went above and beyond by working as a mentor, instructor, and leader during this time period.

Shortly after joining the team, Terry's skills and leadership abilities were recognized by our SWAT Team leadership. Terry became a firearms instructor and has continued to develop the shooting skills of his fellow team members. He also began to hone his leadership skills when he was placed in charge of the CART Team (Chemical Agent Response Team). As the CART Team Leader, Terry instructed SWAT and TAC Team members in a variety of skill sets, including the deployment of less lethal, O.C., and chemical munitions.

Terry was selected as a squad leader by his peers and has worked in that capacity for the majority of his time on this team. He had the skill set to make those around him better and the ability to convey his message in a way that resonated with the team. He stood up for his men at the appropriate times, yet held them accountable when needed. Most importantly, during countless critical calls, Terry made the proper decision in a moment's notice. Decisions that undoubtedly saved the lives of citizens, officers, and even criminals. This type of critical decision making garnered the respect of everyone within our team.

In recent years, Terry has served our team as the Team Leader. This was a difficult position to fill as he followed in the footsteps of a man that did a great job leading this team for many years. Terry focused on developing trainers within the team and polishing the leadership skills of those around him. In doing so, he has developed a younger generation of SWAT Team members that are poised to carry on the proud tradition of successfully resolving dangerous situations and critical incidents in our community.

For over twenty years Terry has been the best of the best! He demonstrated courage during countless violent encounters, improved those around him, and led in a modest way that set the bar for those that will follow in his footsteps. Sgt. Terry Preuninger's selfless service to our team, department, and community should be held out as an example to all." Sergeant Kevin Keller

"As the Tactical Operations Lieutenant in 2014, I had a sergeant's vacancy in the Targeted Crimes Unit I needed to fill. Targeted Crimes is a very proactive, tactical, and high liability unit within investigations. Knowing how important a first line supervisor is to this type of unit, I immediately looked at Terry as the perfect fit. Terry's time and leadership positions on SWAT has made him a huge asset to this already high functioning unit. As the SWAT team commanders, Sgt. Keller and I work closely with Terry on a regular basis. Whether it is for a mission or trainings, I have the upmost confidence in Terry's ability to lead this team." Lt. Steve Wohl

Sergeant Preuninger, I am proud to present you with the Distinguished Service Award. A copy of this letter will be placed in your personnel file. You will be recognized at the Annual Employee Award Ceremony for 2015.

Rick Dobrow
Interim Chief of Police