



## Minnesota State Patrol

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Date: 3-22-22

To: SOTA Board

Alcohol  
and Gambling  
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ARMER/911  
Program

Bureau of  
Criminal  
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Driver  
and Vehicle  
Services

Homeland  
Security and  
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Minnesota  
State Patrol

Office of  
Communications

Office of  
Justice Programs

Office of  
Traffic Safety

State Fire  
Marshal and  
Pipeline Safety



The Minnesota State Patrol Special Response Team would like to nominate our two Team Commanders, Lieutenant Tim Salto and Lieutenant Mike Lee, for the award of Commanders of the Year. To say that our team and its mission has changed in the last three years would be an understatement. In 2019 our team was deployed 9 times; in 2020 we had 69 deployments; in 2021 we had 66 deployments. So far in 2022 we have had eight. To increase our deployments by 700% is a true test for anyone in a leadership position, let alone a team that has been at the forefront of every major civil unrest since May of 2020. The increased scrutiny on how Law Enforcement conducts business and the ever increasing media presence has required the committed and competent leadership that Lieutenants' Lee and Salto have been able to provide. Knowing your leadership supports your decisions has made it easier to focus on the job at hand. Our Lieutenants have done an excellent job of managing our role as a tactical team and meeting the administrative expectations that going along with their job. They advocate for our team on a daily basis and truly care for the members of the team.

As with most agencies, the State Patrol's role in policing has changed since 2020. As the state has navigated through COVID-19, civil unrest, increasing crime rates, and higher call volume, our Commander's strength and resolve to our tactical team has not wavered. The ability for our team to perform as a civil disturbance unit one day and as a decisive tactical unit the next, can only be attributed to our Commanders. It would be easy to allow training to slide due to the team's high optempo, but our leadership has continued to have high expectations and a high standards of what we need to accomplish. This has kept us proficient and prepared for what may come next. They continue to keep evolving and growing our team within the state patrol. Recognizing the need after a dangerous and difficult tactical callout, Lt. Lee and Lt. Salto led the planning and approval efforts to get the team a new armored vehicle that will enhance our abilities and further safeguard the operators for years to come.

For all of these reasons, I would like the board to consider Lt. Mike Lee and Lt. Tim Salto for the Commander(s) of the year award.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

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Thank you for your Consideration

