

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT NOMINATION

On behalf of the Wright County Sheriff's Office, I would like to nominate the City of Annandale, Chief of Police, Jeff Herr for the SOTA Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jeff Herr has recently announced his retirement of nearly 30 years in law enforcement and based on what he has done for the S.W.A.T community, I believe that the time is right to nominate him for this award.

Jeff Herr started his career with the Wright County Emergency Response Team in 1993 and was eventually added to the team, as an acting member in December of 1994 as a part time Deputy, while still working as a full-time officer in the City of Annandale.

Since his addition to the Wright County Emergency Response Team, Jeff has always been on the frontline for new and more advanced tactical training for the team.

In the 90's, as tactical teams were looking for more advanced training, Jeff built an outdoor live fire shoot house in a gravel pit, which was surrounded by a perimeter obstacle course with live fire targets. This type of training advanced the training levels of the Wright County Emergency Response Team, and brought a new level of close quarter combat.

In 1996 Jeff Herr was elected as an Assistant Team Leader to the team, as his peers and supervisors looked to him for tactical guidance and expertise. As an Assistant Team Leader, Jeff, who was still a part-time Deputy and Full time Police Officer for Annandale, dedicated a large amount of time and effort to strive to make the team better.

In 2000 Jeff was appointed as the Chief of Police in the City of Annandale, and even with the new added responsibility, Jeff still remained dedicated to his Assistant Team Leader duties on the Wright County ERT, and upheld his Duties as the Chief of Police.

Working with the City of Annandale, and also following the premise of "if you build it, they will come", in 2000, Jeff helped develop and construct an Indoor live fire shoot house, later to be called the Annandale Tactical Police/Fire Training Center, which would go on to host countless tactical and officer survival training instructed by trainers from all over the country. This indoor shoot house, which is still in operation today, gives operators the opportunity to train without worrying about the exterior weather conditions, and under his guidance, Jeff oversees that operators train in a safe environment, while also giving operators confidence when working closely with their partners.

Jeff Herr has always been known as the "gadget guy" and through his diligence to make the team better in the early years on the team, Jeff developed a throw phone, from a Plastic Pelican case, a standard home phone, and 100 feet of industrial strength metal coiled telephone booth cord.

If it wasn't for a minor wiring error, and the advancement of throw phones, this phone would still be in operation today. Jeff has over the years been called upon by the team to repair, design, and fabricate numerous pieces of equipment.

Along with the Throw Phone, Jeff has also designed, developed, and donated a large amount of breaching, and flashbang deployment equipment to the Wright County ERT team, and other teams throughout the state, making sure that we were doing our job as safely as possible. This also gave our team a front seat to the technological advancements within the S.W.A.T community.

In 2007 armed with a welding gun, a good machinist, and a newly constructed Pole Shed, Jeff came up with an idea that would make S.W.A.T operators conduct their duties in a safer manner. From this idea, Jeff developed J&N Tactical, which is now known worldwide for breaching and tactical tools. Some of these tools, you may know as the Vandal, the Flashbang Pole, and the DRACO.

Jeff has attended trainings and networked relationships with leaders throughout the country, in an effort to not only make himself better, but to bring this knowledge back to S.W.A.T Operators across the State and also to the Wright County Emergency Response Team to ensure that we were adequately trained.

Please accept this nomination for the SOTA Lifetime Achievement Award for retiring Chief Jeff Herr as we feel that his accomplishments and contributions to the S.W.A.T community are deserving of this award.

Sgt. Josh Hinton- Tactical Commander Wright County ERT

Josh.Hinton@co.wright.mn.us

612-221-5724