

03/21/2022

SGT Ross Livingood
Willmar Police Department
2201 NE 23rd St Suite 102
Willmar, MN 56201
320-905-0043

RE: Award Nominations

Dear SOTA Award Committee,

I am writing to nominate Officer Josh Helgeson for the Team Leader of the Year award for his work on the night of 01/15/2022 and for the contributions that he has made over the years to the Willmar Police Department SWAT Team.

Officer Josh Helgeson has been a team member of the Willmar Police Department SWAT Team since 2011. During his time on the SWAT Team, Officer Josh Helgeson has proven himself to be a very proficient team member and an exceptionally gifted trainer. He has assisted with training as a firearms instructor since 2012 and has instructed on countless other tactics. Officer Josh Helgeson has demonstrated effective leadership ability on numerous search warrants where he has assisted with planning and worked as a Team Leader during their execution.

A clear example of Officer Josh Helgeson's abilities was demonstrated on the night of 01/15/2022 when the Willmar Police Department's SWAT Team was paged out to assist with a manhunt for a suspect who had fired a handgun at a police officer during a foot chase.

Officer Josh Helgeson responded promptly to the page arriving on scene in full kit with the Humvee approximately a half an hour after the page went out. During the entire operation, Officer Josh Helgeson demonstrated solid leadership ability and sound intelligent decision-making as he worked as the team leader for the Willmar Police Department SWAT Team. Officer Josh Helgeson organized several small teams to complete specific task such as; breaching doors, deploying the tactical robot, deploying chemical munitions, tracking the suspect and effectively utilized the less lethal shotgun to apprehend the suspect. These teams consisted of members of both the Willmar Police Department SWAT Team and the Kandiyohi County SWAT Team. All of these teams were well thought out and organized and completed their task safely and effectively.

Officer Josh Helgeson demonstrated excellent communication with command during the entire operation. Throughout the operation, he kept me informed of all steps that were being taken and made appropriate request through me as the situation progressed. One complication for this callout was the fact that two teams were involved each with their own command and team leaders. Officer Josh Helgeson's clear communications and leadership helped to mitigate this and it was apparent that not only does he have the trust and respect of his team members but also of the members and command of the Kandiyohi County SWAT Team.

Sergeant Ross Livingood