



Saint Louis County

Sheriff's Office • 100 N. Fifth Ave. West, Room 103 • Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 726-2341 • Fax: (218) 726-2171

Ross Litman
Sheriff

February 9, 2020
SOTA Awards Committee
RE: Nomination for the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award

Dear Awards Committee Members:

I am requesting your consideration in awarding Deputy Bill Dolentz with the 2020 lifetime achievement award. Deputy Dolentz has been a tactical operator with the St. Louis County Emergency Response Team for 24 years; 22 of which have been spent as a team leader. In that same time period while on the Emergency Response Team, he has served as lead firearms instructor, live fire shoot house instructor and tactical trainer to include all methods of entry including being trained as a hostage rescue instructor. Deputy Dolentz also serves as a Sub-gun team member and coordinator for over 15 years and is a Sub-gun instructor. When meth labs were on the rise, Deputy Dolentz traveled to Arizona to watch and learn with the Phoenix meth lab team and brought that information back and helped to develop our own meth lab team. He served on that team until it was disbanded due to the changes in the way meth was distributed.

Deputy Dolentz started his law enforcement career with the Dallas, Texas Police Department in 1991, and then began working for the Minneapolis Police Department starting in 1995, eventually working his way back home to the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office in December of 1995. In March of 1997, after just over a year of employment with the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Dolentz was elected onto the Emergency Response Team; two years later he was elected by a vote of his peers to the position of team leader where he has remained for the past 22 years having been unanimously re-elected to that position every three years. Deputy Dolentz has earned the respect of the Sheriff of St. Louis County, the Emergency Response Commanders and most importantly he has earned the respect of his peers due to his exemplary leadership skills and his dedication to the team. Deputy Dolentz leads his team with self-sacrifice, loyalty, positivity, influence, and humility. Deputy Dolentz leads by example and ensures that his team members always know their value to the team and to the mission while also being able to provide constructive feedback in a manner that provides an opportunity to better the skills of team members. Deputy Dolentz is a leader any team would want in the most dynamic of operations and by their side in any life or death situation. While many in tactical leadership positions may possess similar traits, Deputy Dolentz stands out due to his vision, practical abilities, knowledge, demeanor, consistency, and the respect he has earned from his team as well as senior leadership within the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Dolentz is revered by both the team and senior leadership within the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office as a mentor who has the gift of being able to impart his skills, knowledge and abilities on every member of the team regardless of their tenure or experience. The team relies on Deputy Dolentz for advice, guidance and his calm, businesslike approach to the most dangerous of situations. Deputy Dolentz has the greatest tactical vision I have seen in a team leader or operator in my career. He has an uncanny ability to see four and five steps ahead while always knowing where all team members are and can adapt seamlessly to fast changing circumstances. The contributions that Deputy Dolentz has made to the team during his tenure have helped to mold the team into what it is today as well as setting the

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bar for leaders of the future. Deputy Dolentz over his long tenure with the team has led his teams on countless missions to include warrants, barricades, apprehension of homicide suspects, woods searches, and meth lab entries to name only a few. During these missions the commanders and even the most experienced team leaders are glad when Deputy Dolentz, with his vast experience and swat mind-set, arrives on scene.

Deputy Dolentz will be retiring from law enforcement in September of 2020 having dedicated his entire career to protecting and serving the community with honor, integrity and selflessness. His absence from the Sheriffs' Office and the Emergency Response Team will be felt by all. Fortunately, Deputy Dolentz integrity, legacy of leadership and mentoring is a gift that will remain with his team that he has inspired to lead in his footsteps and who strive to set a similar example for future team members and leaders. I sincerely hope you will to give serious consideration to Deputy Dolentz for the lifetime achievement award. His leadership and mentorship have touched hundreds of operators in our agency and throughout the arrowhead region of Minnesota.

Respectfully,



Lieutenant David S. Rolland
Commander of Emergency Response Team
St. Louis County Sheriff's Office

Reply to:

Administrative Offices

100 N. 5th Ave. W., Rm. 103
P.O. Box 16187 Duluth, MN 55816
Phone: (218) 726-2341
Fax: (218) 726-2171

Public Safety Bldg

2030 N Arlington Ave
Duluth, MN 55811
Phone: (218) 336-4360
Fax: (218) 336-4370

Sheriff's Office

300 S. 5th Ave.
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: (218) 749-7134
Fax: (218) 749-7192

Sheriff's Office

1810 12th Ave. E.
Hibbing, MN 55746
Phone: (218) 262-0132
Fax: (218) 262-6334