

## 2009 Chief's Citation Award

### SPOKANE REGIONAL GANGNET SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

The Chief's Citation Award is intended to recognize members of a Team or Unit for participating in an incident, event, or series of events, or project which has a substantial positive impact on the community or the police department. The incident, event, or project must be superior in nature and further the Department's mission and overall effectiveness.

**Members of this Team include:** Lt. Dave Richards, Sgt. Dan Ervin, Carly Cortright, Joette Wentworth, Richard Cain LEIS, Dusty Patrick LEIS, Rex Franklin MIS, Carrie Aiken LEIS, Officer Mike Roberge and Officer Amy Ross.

GangNet is an intelligence database which allows sharing of gang information with agencies east of the Cascade Mountains. GangNet was installed in December of 2008 and began operation January of 2009. Currently we are connected to ten agencies and will soon be connected to CALGANG in California. The GangNet project started out with the writing of a \$330,000 federal grant. The development and implementation of this program has moved the Spokane Police Department far ahead in the investigation of criminal street gang members.

Sgt. Ervin had the original vision and due to his recognition of the possibilities available, the GangNet system became a reality. **Lt. Richards** provided support and when problems arose, he was there to assist. He supported out of state training and education for trainers. He is now an honorary member of the CALGANG board and attends meetings with them to work with California law enforcement. **Carly Cortright** found grant funds, spending several hours writing the grant and administrative progress reports that were required by the federal government. Carly solved a large portion of budget problems. **Joette Wentworth** managed all of the grant funds and payment processes for the city. This was difficult due to delays involved in the progression of purchasing software. There were times when the delays made it almost impossible to get the payments made in a timely manner to follow the rules of the grant. **Richard Cain** and **Dusty Patrick LEIS** spent a lot of time working with **Sgt. Ervin** and SRA to get the software loaded and functioning correctly. Their technological support started with knowing exactly what equipment SPD needed to order and then how to put it all together was essential. **Rex Franklin MIS** worked hard making sure that the Spokane Police Department had connectivity with other agencies that are using the system. As each new agency is added, Rex works with that agency and their IT issues to make GangNet compatible. **Carrie Aiken LEIS** is the technical support person for the operation of the software. If changes are needed in the software, she handles them. Carrie developed a way to compare arrest data to GangNet to track what our gang members have been involved with. Carrie also helped with retrieving statistical data by creating a program to compare our GangNet information with RMS. **Officers Mike Roberge and Amy Ross** developed policy that governs how the Spokane Regional GangNet System works. They developed a training program to teach people about the system and a separate training program to train people for data entry throughout agencies in eastern Washington, and helped to develop solid foundations that the Spokane Regional GangNet System requires to follow both state and federal law. They are now recognized gang experts in superior court and their knowledge and expertise on gangs is used within this system on a daily basis.