

OFC. LARRY SAUNDERS



The Medal of Merit is awarded to employees who distinguish themselves by meritorious achievement or service. Meritorious actions are those which clearly surpass that which is normally required or expected.

In his nomination letter, Lt. Toombs noted that Ofc. Saunders was instrumental in developing our current Gang Unit into what is now considered one of the most respected gang units in the Pacific Northwest.

Lt. Toombs stated, "Officer Saunders has devoted many hours toward gaining the knowledge and expertise necessary to be considered a gang expert. He currently is the only member of our department allowed to testify in court as a gang expert. In addition, he is the only officer allowed to classify persons as gang members. Both of these accomplishments were achieved after many hours of training and field work."

Lt. Toombs also cited Ofc. Saunders extensive knowledge of local gang members and associates, saying that he is able to identify suspects, allowing for speedy arrests. Of great benefit to the department is his membership in the Northwest Gang Investigators Association, of which he is currently the vice president of the Washington Chapter. Lt. Toombs also recognized Ofc. Saunders efforts in conducting weekly gang meetings and the distribution of the weekly gang bulletin. Further, Ofc. Saunders provides training to and maintain contacts with other agencies, which has resulted in our having a very extensive and complete gang intelligence file.



Officer Saunders was awarded the Medal of Merit at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2002.