

# SERGEANT DENNIS WALTER



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.



Shortly after the tragic school shootings that occurred at Columbine High School, Sergeant Dennis Walter took it upon himself to learn as much as he could about a new response method to “active shooting” situations that could be used by law enforcement to mitigate the destructiveness of these incidents. He learned techniques which were quite different in the way that police have historically responded to these situations. This new philosophy was much more aggressive and potentially much more dangerous for the officer, but the overwhelming positive impact was that suspects could be contained or eliminated before they could do extensive damage. Sergeant Walter consistently taught active shooter responses throughout the region.

When the incident at Lewis and Clark High School happened in 2003, Spokane Police Department Personnel immediately arrived on scene and responded precisely as they were trained. The result was that the individual was quickly contained and then taken into custody with no injuries to anyone but the suspect. The active shooter training was directly responsible for this success. Sergeant Walter continued to reinforce this training within our department and for any agency that wanted to implement it. The successful resolution of the Lewis and Clark incident would not have been possible without Sergeant Walter’s tremendous contribution.

Sergeant Walter most definitely distinguished himself in the area of meritorious achievement and the department is proud to recognize him with the Medal of Merit. Sergeant Walter was issued the Merit Bar, to be worn on his uniform. He was awarded his Medal of Merit at our annual Employee Awards Ceremony in February of 2005.

