



Lieutenant Steven Buzzell

Colorado Springs Police Department

2022 Service Award

Lt. Buzzell began his career at CSPD in 1987- he worked in patrol, twice in Metro VNI, Park Police Unit, as a patrol sergeant, as a sergeant in the K9 Unit, as a sergeant in the Homicide Unit, as a patrol lieutenant, and currently as a lieutenant in the Tactical Operations Section of the Specialized Enforcement Division. While his unit history and experience are impressive, it is the standard of quality he has maintained throughout his 35 years that makes him stand apart. He is a mentor and coach to numerous officers, supervisors, and leaders and continues to teach his teams and set the bar high for accountability.

The high standard of care exercised early in his career and during his investigations is a hallmark of his career. He was commended for his part of Operation Slammer, stopping a vehicle associated with an armed robbery, as well as receiving recognition for exemplary teamwork and his efforts leading to the successful investigation of the 2015 Halloween shooting and Planned Parenthood shooting. As a Metro VNI sergeant he was assigned to the DEA Task Force where he worked large-scale narcotic investigations that impacted different jurisdictions across the county.

He served the K9 unit as the sergeant for eight years. During his tenure, he added four dual-purpose K9 handler teams and worked as a handler himself. He, along with then Sergeants Andy James and Lance Lazoff wrote and taught the first "Managing High Risk/Low Frequency Event" course for supervisors. In 2019, he was assigned to the Tactical Operations Section, overseeing the Regional Explosives Unit, the K9 Unit, and the Tactical Enforcement Unit. He is available to all of his teams 24/7 and nearly 365 days a year and has responded to over 100 TEU high-risk calls, taking an active management role.

Awards Lt. Buzzell has received include the Colorado Drug Investigators Association's Regional Presidential Award, a Medal of Valor, a Department Commendation, ten Written Commendations, seven Commander Commendations, two ACE awards, three Create Leadership Awards, an American Eagle Award, an Eastside Rotary award and numerous certificates of appreciation and letters from the community and other agencies.