



Anchorage Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics

716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

Service since 1983



Please accept my nomination of Anchorage Police Department Sergeant Jon Butler for the Nominate a Hero award. I have worked for the Anchorage Police since 2001 and been assigned to SWAT since 2007. I have had the privilege of knowing Ofc. Butler since he was in Junior High School and have also worked side by side with him here at APD since he joined our SWAT team in 2012.

As a young officer, Jon showed his dedication and motivation of being a professional law enforcement officer every day. He did this by building a reputation of being a tactically sound officer at the same time as being a compassionate officer. This also led to him being extremely involved in the community. Jon would always volunteer for community events and could be counted on for anything that was needed. As Jon progressed throughout his career, he began seeking out opportunities to take on more responsibility and leadership roles within his volunteer efforts and community involvement. Jon is now on the Board of Directors for Anchorage Cops for Community (AC4C). I have seen Jon take on many responsibilities as a Board member and I have personally seen the large amount of volunteer hours he has put it to ensure events are coordinated properly and run smoothly.

One of the yearly projects Jon coordinates is the Clothesline Project. This back-to-school clothing drive strives to dress Anchorage students for success. Throughout each summer, AC4C asks the public to donate new and gently used clothing for this back-to-school initiative. This one-day event usually encompasses a vacant store front in an Anchorage mall and allows children to shop for free for back-to-school. AC4C partners with many community partners to give backpacks, school supplies, jackets and more! Bonus: hanging out with cops and fire-fighters for a little family fun!

[clothesline project](http://clotheslineproject.com) | [anchoragecops \(anchoragecopsforcommunity.org\)](http://anchoragecops.com)

This year's Clothesline Project was a huge success and larger than ever. This was a direct result of Jon's involvement and dedication. He spends countless hours and months of collecting clothing, sorting clothing, arranging all the logistics of this large event. He often is seen volunteering with his family and instilling these community values into his own children.

Another yearly project Jon coordinates is Shop with a Cop and Firefighter. *This Christmas time event is a partnership with IAFF Local 1264 (firefighters) and Fred Meyer for the "Shop with a Cop, Shop with a Firefighter" program. Since 2000, APDEA and IAFF Local 1264 have worked with local businesses to sponsor a holiday shopping spree to children who may not otherwise be able to afford gifts at Christmas. A rewarding event for ALL who volunteer!*

[shop with a cop & firefighter](http://shopwithacop.com) | [anchoragecops \(anchoragecopsforcommunity.org\)](http://anchoragecops.com)

Jon also coordinates APD SWAT officers to deliver the children's toys via SWAT armored vehicles. This is an exciting time for the children and one of the coolest Santa sleighs around. It also builds relationships with our community and builds a bridge to children. Connecting with disadvantaged children is often a gap most police departments are struggling with around the nation. Shop with a Cop and Firefighter is just another example of events Jon has been involved in and help arrange and coordinate large successful community events. On top



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of running two of the largest events, AC4C supports, Jon continues to be involved in community events throughout the year. SWAT demonstrations at elementary schools, kids' events, multiple community led events are just a sample of the commitment Jon has to the Anchorage community and its citizens. Jon is one of the best examples of community style policing I have witnessed personally.

In addition to his community dedication, Jon is a member of the APD SWAT Team. In his eleven years on SWAT, Jon has built a reputation of being the ultimate professional. He is constantly training and volunteering his personal time and money to ensure he can be the best SWAT team member. Jon is trusted by his peers and is known to be someone we can always count on. Jon was also awarded the Medal of Valor in 2016 for his role and actions during a critical incident on Ginami Street where Jon was injured. His dedication to the citizens of Anchorage, the Anchorage Police Department, or the SWAT team never wavered after the injury.

Jon is also a member of the Breaching Cadre, which is an additional duty on SWAT where he is expected to be a subject matter expert in eight different methods of Breaching. These methods involve manual, mechanical, ballistic, thermal, hydraulic, surreptitious, vehicle assisted, and explosive breaching. In major critical incidents, SWAT team members being able to enter a crisis site is extremely important and it is imperative that we have Breachers that can get the SWAT team into a location to save lives. Jon takes this duty seriously and has participated in numerous trainings outside of Alaska using his own money to ensure, APD is always using the most up to date tools and tactics. Jon has gone from being an entry level Breacher, to becoming an Assistant Team leader for the Breaching Cadre, to earlier this year being promoted to Team Leader of the Breaching cadre. Under Jon's leadership, the Breaching Cadre has increased its capabilities and will continue to be a professional, responsible, and effective program.

Ever since Jon has joined SWAT he has been looked to as an informal leader by the SWAT Team Leaders. Jon could be counted on to complete any task we asked him to do. We had the utmost trust that the task would get done and be an excellent representation of the Anchorage Police Department and the SWAT Team. Over the years, Jon has also built his tactical knowledge base and started being involved in a leadership role on the SWAT team. Jon's tactical expertise and leadership qualities have led to him to become an Assistant Team Leader for the APD SWAT Team. This is a great honor and a great representation of the trust I have in Jon as well as the trust his teammates have in him. I look forward to seeing what Jon will accomplish in the years to come.

Lastly in August of 2022, Jon was promoted from officer to a patrol Sergeant at APD. As I mentioned earlier, Jon has always been an informal leader and his progression to Sergeant has been an awesome experience to observe. Jon is assigned to Swing Shift patrol (3pm to 1am) and has multiple young officers under his direct supervision and care. The amount of effort he puts in daily to mentor these new officers is quite impressive. He looks for new ways to engage and teach the officers. He doesn't just look for mistakes and training opportunities but also encourages and praises these officers when they have done excellent work. He still holds them accountable, builds relationships with these officers and has been able to effectively lead them to better professional performance. One of his own officers, recently nominated Jon for the APD Honor Award.



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"He has honor if he holds himself to an ideal of conduct though it is inconvenient, unprofitable, or dangerous to do so." Walter Lippmann

The honor award is to be awarded to an employee who distinguishes themselves on or off duty by performing actions that is in itself honorable and brings honor to the department and the community they serve. Honor is to be defined as an ideal of conduct that is inconvenient, unprofitable, or dangerous in nature which benefits others over themselves. To be nominated by one of the officers he supervises, I believe is a great testament to the job he has done as a leader.

Jon does all these things I've mentioned for our community, our officers, his teammates and not for personal gain or awards. Jon is quiet about his involvement or success and always gives credit to others. Jon would be an excellent representative for your nominate a hero award. Thank you for taking the time to read my nomination.

Sgt. Eric Smith

Anchorage Police Department SWAT
Team Sergeant