



Dr. Cop

Susan Brinker - NewsPress

— After a lot of hard work and determination, a tactical physician for the Stillwater Police Department was sworn in as a reserve officer Wednesday.

Dr. Charles W. Olson Jr., was sworn in by Municipal Judge Tanya Raun in front of his wife, Shelly, six of his seven children, members of the SWAT team and various other members of the SPD.

He has worked as an emergency physician at Stillwater Medical Center for the past eight years.

He became interested in tactical medicine in August 2006, when he learned that three Stillwater Fire Department paramedics were on the SWAT team, serving as tactical paramedics and SPD reserve officers.

He pursued training as a tactical physician, which included training with the SWAT team, training at the International School of Tactical Medicine and the Department of Homeland Security's CONTOMS Tactical Medical Director's course.

Although he had a demanding schedule, he has incorporated the challenges of becoming a reserve officer in his daily life. The training alone includes 160 hours of classroom, practical training and certification examinations.

"My greatest challenge thus far is my training with the team and as a reserve officer, as they are quite different from my background in medicine. The complexities of law and police training, including the physical demands, have been eye-opening.

"I am thankful for my God-given abilities in medicine that allow me to provide support for the team. I am grateful to my wife and children for their support and prayers in my time away for training.

"I also wish to express thanks to the Stillwater Police officers who have spent time in training me and also to the volunteers through the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training and the Seminole Police Department, who have spent many hours training me to be a reserve officer."

Olson's dedication to the SPD has not gone unnoticed by Chief Norman McNickle.

"In addition to his regular duties, he has attended extensive training on SWAT-related emergency medicine at his own expense and regularly trains with the SPD SWAT Team," McNickle said.

SWAT call outs are generally high risk situations for the police officers, suspects and the public, McNickle said.

Because of the high risk of violence in these situations, a fully-trained emergency medical physician on the scene can greatly increase survival rates of any injured person.

"The Stillwater Police Department is very grateful to Olson for the dedication of his service to the department and the citizens of Stillwater," added McNickle.

"I cannot over-emphasize the importance of Olson's service that he provides to all concerned."

Olson is a native of Oklahoma and graduated from Moore High School in 1984. He earned a bachelor's of science in zoology from the University of Oklahoma and a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine.

Copyright © 1999-2006 cnhi, inc.

Photos



Judge Tonya C. Raun swears in Charles W. Olson Jr. on Wednesday as a Stillwater Police officer in the Municipal Courtroom. Mika Matzen - Stillwater NewsPress