



# City of Duluth Police Department

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Colonel John Czernis  
2900 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL, 32399-0500

Two words which describe the 4th Special Operations Forces Run, mission accomplished. The mission was accomplished only because of the teamwork displayed by multiple agencies and individuals working together unselfishly for a single goal to run/bike from Duluth, Georgia to Tampa, Florida in honor of our troops and veterans. Police officers, firefighters, deputies, civilians and soldiers forming one team honoring America's Special Operations Troops in memory of PO2 Michael Monsoor, a fallen Navy Seal and recipient of our nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor.

I can not do justice in my own words to explain how this team of strangers from different backgrounds came together and in only a few hours jelled into a team; a team just as close knit as any SWAT, firefighting engine company or other Special Ops team. The SOF Run team concept went far beyond that of those running together and extended to the security units and support team members provided by Eagle Rock and Pepin Distributing Companies. And in reality it didn't stop there, but extended to every county sheriff and local city police department along the route and both state police agencies. Muscogee County Sheriffs blocked all intersections through Columbus (GA) during the 2:30 am run; City of Dawson Police provided runners and breakfast for the team at 6:15 am on Saturday morning. Not to be out done, Tallahassee Police and Fire welcomed the runners on Sunday morning with a ceremony and breakfast; while Chiefland Police met the team at the city limits where a local businessman jogged beside the runners as they passed through the city. All along the route, public safety came together supporting Operation One Voice and the Special Operations Forces Run.

Just like a war plan, each component of the SOF Run was equally important and we would not have accomplished the mission without each component doing their part. I owe you, your agency and each participant a debt of gratitude for the outstanding job they did to accomplish this 600 mile run.

One of the fondest memories we will have from this year's SOF Run took place during the social after the Veterans ceremony at MacDill AFB. It was during the social that we were able to present two of six bicycles to wounded warriors. The first bike was presented to Chief Warrant Officer Perez, wounded in an IED incident and the second bike to Sgt Serna, a green beret wounded on three different occasions and he still continues to serve our nation. For each member of the SOF Run Team, we realized that this is why this run is and will continue to be important.

In the words of our Navy Seals,

Hooyah!

Lt. Bill Stevens