

Ryan Van Wave

Mr. Van Wave began his law enforcement career with the O'Fallon Missouri Police Department in March of 2006. While at the O'Fallon Police Department, he was assigned to the Patrol Division where he became an Evidence Technician and Field Training Officer. On March 8 of 2010, Ryan responded to a call for an overturned vehicle, on fire with the driver still inside. He opened the rear hatch of the vehicle, climbed inside, and pulled the driver to safety as the vehicle became fully engulfed in flames. His actions during this intense situation were recognized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars (2010 VFW Officer of the Year), Missouri Governor, Missouri Senate, and the National Carnegie Hero Fund Commission (Medal 83029-9420).

In October of 2013, Ryan was promoted to Patrol Sergeant and tasked with supervising the Field Training Program for several years, which consists of ten field training officers. During this time they trained thirty-seven newly hired police and confinement officers. In 2014, Ryan returned to college to develop skills and understanding of leadership traits and training theories. He graduated from Lindenwood University with honors (4.0 GPA) earning a Master's of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management.

In May of 2021, Ryan was assigned to the O'Fallon Training Division as the section supervisor. While assigned to the Training Division Ryan has earned his Firearms Instructor, Patrol Rifle Instructor, Armorer, Range Master, Less Lethal Instructor, Taser Instructor, OC spray Instructor, and American Heart Association HeartSaver Instructor certifications. He teaches numerous courses and in-service training to the department. He also reviews and writes law enforcement training curriculum for his Police Department to meet Missouri POST and CALEA standards.

Mr. Van Wave is a Missouri POST Generalist and Specialist Certified Instructor for his agency. He is also an Adjunct Instructor at the Eastern Missouri Police Academy (EMPA) where he teaches new recruits. He keeps busy with his family, friends, and fulfilling career.