The department has received your request for certain records and has processed it under the provisions of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), MCL 15.231 et seq.

The records you have requested have been:

( ) Granted

( ) Granted in Part and denied in part. Portions of your request are exempt from disclosure based on provisions set forth in the Act. (See comments on the back of this letter.) Under the FOIA, Section 10, you have the right to appeal to the head of this public body or to a judicial review of the denial.

( ) Denied. (See comments on the back of this letter.) Under the FOIA, Section 10, you have the right to appeal to the head of this public body or to a judicial review of the denial.

( ) The documents you requested are enclosed. Please pay the amount of $316.00.

( ) Please pay the amount of $________. Once we receive payment the documents will be mailed to you.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to the STATE OF MICHIGAN and mailed to P.O. Box 30266 Lansing, MI 48909. To ensure proper credit, please enclose a copy of this letter with your payment.

If you have questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact our office at the address below, and enclose a copy of this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Bethany Goodwin
Assistant FOIA Coordinator
Michigan State Police
DENIAL OF RECORDS:
Denial is based on the following provision(s) of the Freedom of Information Act. MCL 15.243, Sec. 13(1).
(All that apply will be checked.)

☐ (a) Information of a personal nature where the public disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's privacy.
  ☐ Telephone Number(s)  ☐ Address(es)  ☐ Date(s) of Birth  ☐ Physical Characteristics  ☐ Driver License Number(s)
  ☐ Other: ___________________________

☐ (b) Investigating records compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that disclosure would do any of the following:
  ☐ (i) Interfere with law enforcement proceedings.
  ☐ (ii) Deprive a person of the right to a fair trial or impartial administrative adjudication.
  ☐ (iii) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.
  ☐ (iv) Disclose the identity of a confidential source, or if the record is compiled by a law enforcement agency in the course of a criminal investigation, disclose confidential information furnished only by a confidential source.
  ☐ (v) Endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel.

☐ (c) Records or information specifically described and exempted from disclosure by statute.
  Statute: ______________________________________

☐ (m) Communications and notes within a public body or between public bodies of an advisory nature to the extent that they cover other than purely factual materials and are preliminary to a final agency determination of policy or action.

☐ (n) Records of law enforcement communication codes, or plans for deployment of law enforcement personnel, that if disclosed would prejudice a public body's ability to protect the public.

☐ (s) Unless the public interest in disclosure outweighs the public interest in nondisclosure in the particular instance, public records of a law enforcement agency, the release of which would do any of the following:
  ☐ (i) Identify or provide a means of identifying an informer.
  ☐ (ii) Identify or provide a means of identifying a law enforcement undercover officer or agent or a plain clothes officer as a law enforcement officer or agent.
  ☐ (viii) Identify or provide a means of identifying a person as a law enforcement officer, agent, or informer.
  ☐ (ix) Disclose personnel records of law enforcement agencies.

☐ (u) Records of a public body's security measures, including security plans, security codes and combinations, passwords, passes, keys, and security procedures, to the extent that the records relate to the ongoing security of the public body.

☐ (w) Information or records that would disclose the social security number of any individual.

☐ Your request is denied under the authority of Section 13(1)(a) above. However, if you provide a notarized, signed release of information from the individual to whom the records pertain, you will receive that information to which the individual signing the release is entitled.

☐ To the best of the Department's knowledge, information, and belief, under the information provided by you or by an other description reasonably known to the Department, the public records do not exist within the Department.

☐ Based on the information you provided, we are unable to locate any records pertaining to the incident you described. In order for us to continue processing your request, please comply with the following items. To ensure proper handling of your request, please include a copy of this letter with your response.
  ☐ Specific location (i.e. city, county)
  ☐ Michigan State Police incident number
  ☐ Names of those involved in the incident
  ☐ Specific dates (i.e. date of incident)
  ☐ Name of driver and their birth date or driver license number
  ☐ Date of birth

☐ The report you have requested has not yet been completed and filed. Please resubmit your request in 30 days.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Goodwin, Bethany (MSP)

From: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:26 PM
To: Banner, Shanon (MSP)
Subject: RE: ES Team photo
Attachments: photo.JPG

Shanon,

I had no idea this was going to turn into this. My apologies and lesson learned. Below is my summary, if you need anything else let me know.

On Friday, May 2 shortly after the Emergency Support Team graduation, we made a post on the department’s Facebook page congratulating the 15 new members of the ES Team along with their ES Team graduation photo (see attached). There was a mix of supporting comments along with negative. Over the weekend, the negative comments began to dominate the photo; such comments questioned the militarization of the MSP, the gear, MSP showing disrespect for the military, etc. Supporters of the ES Team were also receiving negativity for supporting the MSP. What ultimately lead to the decision to pull the photo down was the domination of negative and hateful comments and when a spouse of an ES Team member direct messaged our Facebook page in concern.

From: Banner, Shanon (MSP)
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:07 PM
To: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Subject: RE: ES Team photo

I would like to send a heads-up to EC and SOD command. Can you please type me up a brief summary of what occurred, what led us to pull the photo, and then this news story. Thanks.

From: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Sent: Tuesday, May 06, 2014 2:05 PM
To: Banner, Shanon (MSP)
Subject: ES Team photo

FYI – I want to bring you in the loop on a bit of a cyber-controversy we created that we are working to mitigate.

On Friday, May 2 shortly after the ES Team graduation, we made a post on the department’s Facebook page congratulating the 15 new members of the ES Team along with their ES Team graduation photo (attached). We received a mix of supporting comments and negative comments that focused on the over-militarization of police; however many of our fans came to our defense.

Over the weekend, the negative comments grew in number and rose to a new level of negativity. As this story continued to gain momentum through this morning, I made the decision today to remove the photo from our page in an attempt to stop the discussion. Nothing in cyber space is truly ever gone, so we are still receiving tweets (such as “Dear Lord, that is embarrassing. Put on some blue uniforms, you ridiculous mall ninjas.”); however, this will hopefully die out.

The Governor’s Office retweeted our initial tweet so they too are receiving these negative comments. I wanted you to be aware we are continuing to monitor this and have learned a great lesson about the need to keep SWAT-related items from our social media accounts.

Shanon Banner
Manager, Public Affairs Section
Office of the Director
Michigan State Police
(517) 241-0955

A PROUD tradition of SERVICE through EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY, and COURTESY

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MichiganStatePolice
Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/michstatepolice
Check out our blog at http://msprecruits.wordpress.com
Goodwin, Bethany (MSP)

From: Banner, Shanon (MSP)
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 10:58 AM
To: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Subject: RE: Facebook-ES Team

The ES Team graduation photo was removed due to the volume of negative and harassing comments it received. Comments that include abusive or vulgar language, spam, hate speech, personal attacks, or similar content are not permitted on our page as stated in our social media policy.

From: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 10:00 AM
To: Banner, Shanon (MSP)
Subject: FW: Facebook-ES Team

Suggested Response:

From: Medrano, Sierra (MSP)
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2014 9:22 AM
To: Banner, Shanon (MSP) (BannerS@michigan.gov)
Subject: Facebook-ES Team

Hi Shanon,

Do you suggest we respond to this post?

Brandon LaVigne
Simple and direct question:
Why did this page take down the pic of MSP dressed as militarized jackboots ready to take on a seek and destroy mission?