

# TO PROTECT AND SERVE

*Our monthly recognition for the best of the best*



## *Corrections Officer of the Month*

### CONSTANCE BARAHONA

A 13-year JSO employee, Constance Barahona is currently assigned as Postal Services Officer at the Pre-Trial Detention Facility where she delivers mail to about 1,400 inmates a day. Her excellent observation skills are a valuable resource in discovering fraudulent activity among the inmates. Last February she noticed that inmates assigned to two floors in the facility received income tax forms to file

and she also noted a large increase in the amount of money deposited into various inmates' accounts. Suspecting illegal activity, she contacted her supervisor and the crime was stopped, saving the IRS about \$3 million.

In another instance Barahona learned of two inmates planning to escape from the PTDF while delivering mail. She gave this information to the Intelligence Unit which successfully blocked the inmates' escape attempt. She also has an excellent track record for discovering contraband concealed inside letters and periodicals mailed to inmates.



## *Police Supervisor of the Month*

### DELORIS PATTERSON

Patrol West Sergeant Deloris Patterson manages the Offender Tracking Unit, and up until August of 2009 she also managed officer overtime in the Operation Safe Streets initiative. OSS is JSO's key law enforcement strategy with a focus on illegal weapons, the criminals who use them, and the geographic areas where they operate.

After accepting the assignment of OSS Coordinator in October 2008, she worked with the Information Systems Management Unit to complete the OSS scheduling program. She streamlined the new program so it would schedule up to 72 officers per day to work in designated assignments and allow officers to sign up electronically. This ensured overtime was distributed evenly to all participating officers. She also created a standby list where officers would be called if someone was unable to fulfill his scheduled assignment, and she trained officers to use the new system.

Additionally, Patterson coordinated daily OSS missions, including Bike Patrols, Mounted Patrols and Traffic Safety Checkpoints, ensuring that all parties were connected and received information they needed. While handling her OSS duties, Patterson was assigned to run the newly configured Offender Tracking Unit. Beginning in Feb. 2009, this unit of six detectives monitors sexual predators in our jurisdiction. As of February 18, 2010, there are 1,802 registered offenders and predators in our area, of which 198 (about 12 percent) are predators and considered the most dangerous. Proper oversight of their compliance with the law is critical to the safety of our citizens. Patterson and her dedicated team of officers handle this assignment very well.

If you want to learn more, you can visit JSO's website at [jaxsheriff.org](http://jaxsheriff.org) and click on OFFENDER WATCH.



## *Police Officer of the Month*

### RICHARD FUTCH

Detective Richard Futch is recognized for his excellent investigative skills in solving an armed residential burglary, armed abduction of two children inside the residence, and armed sexual battery of one of the children. Early in the morning of July 7, 2009, the suspect entered the home after the victims' parents left for work, leaving their children, 11 and 14, asleep in their bedrooms. Using a shovel he found on the property to force open a window, the suspect armed himself with a knife from the kitchen and bound the victims with neck ties from the parents' bedroom. He then sexually assaulted the 14-year-old female victim, beat and kicked her 11-year-old brother, then ransacked the house for valuables to steal. Destroying physical evidence, the suspect used the girl's cell phone to call for assistance to move the items he had stolen.

The JSO Sex Crimes Unit assigned Futch, one of its most tenured and experienced detectives, to the case. No physical evidence at the scene could be linked back to the suspect and no eyewitnesses could be found after Futch canvassed the area, so he turned to the telephone call made by the suspect. The person who retrieved the stolen items was identified, brought in for questioning and admitted his involvement in the crime. He directed Futch to several locations where much of the family's stolen property was recovered.

This search resulted in a separate arrest and disruption of a marijuana growing operation and the seizure of more than two pounds of marijuana, cash, and firearms. Based on the co-defendant's confession, Futch and the U.S. Marshal's service apprehended the suspect the following day.



## *Lifesaving Award*

### RONNIE DAVIS

Last November, Officer Ronnie Davis was dispatched to a Walgreen's Pharmacy off of University Blvd. to assist the Jacksonville Fire/Rescue Department with a 49-year-old male who was "down" or sick. When he arrived, bystanders were pulling the unconscious victim from his vehicle. Davis, joined by the store's pharmacist and an unknown female, began performing

CPR on the man until JFRD arrived and transported him to Memorial Hospital for further treatment. The next day, Davis learned that the man had survived and was receiving treatment. Davis's quick response and actions saved a life, according to the hospital staff.



## *Civilian Supervisor of the Month*

### PHYLLIS LEONARD

Sgt. Phyllis Leonard has been employed with JSO since January 1989 in the Police Communications division as Assistant Communications Training Coordinator, ensuring that all employees hired receive their classroom and on-the-job training in order to obtain solo status. She supervises the Terminal Agency Coordinator, the Tap Reproduction Specialist, and the Communications Technical Assistant.

In April 2008, the Communications division filled 38 new Police Emergency Communications positions that were approved by *The Jacksonville Journey*, along with eight existing vacancies. These 911 call takers and dispatchers have a very hard job and are well trained before they are on the phone with a citizen in distress. Leonard helped interview more than 106 applicants. Between April 2008 and September 2009, the Communications Center had as many as 46 trainees at one time. Because her ability to identify, recruit and train talented employees, the Communications Center currently carries only five vacancies.

In addition to her duties as Training Coordinator, Leonard developed a 36-hour Communications Curriculum and lesson plan which she taught for two weeks at the Seaport Fusion Center in July 2009. She also volunteers at the Teacher Depot, Cleaning the Beach and Wounded Warrior Project, and participated in several fund raising walks and safety fairs in 2009.

## *Civilian Employee of the Month*

### JIM A. DAVIS (Photo unavailable)

Jim Davis has been working on Project Safe Students in Schools, a collaborative effort between the JSO and the Duval County Public School (DCPS) system, to provide a safe environment in our schools. The Safe Students in Schools (PSSS) program collects and processes information from the schools and fuses it with JSO data. Our School Resource Officers coordinate with the school and reach out to students to provide services and develop positive relationships between SROs and children who have problematic behavior.

Jim's processes and analyses are the foundation of this program. His efforts identify children for non-enforcement assistance and mentoring. His analysis while working with AC David Coffman, Community Affairs Division, and Matt White, former manager of the Crime Analysis Unit, has revealed that in the 2008/2009 school year PSSS had an average of more than 70 percent LESS school discipline and contacts by SROs in the months following their involvement in the program.



## *Certificate of Appreciation*

### BUDDY (BUD) UNDERWOOD

In March 2008, JSO Seaport Unit Sgt. John Schnippert began searching for monetary donations for an upcoming Florida Intelligence Unit (FIU) conference in Jacksonville. FIU, comprised of more than 225 agencies in Florida, develops intelligence covering Auto Theft, Gang, Maritime & Aviation, Financial and Terrorist activities. Its dues cannot be used for anything other than business-related expenses, so Schnippert approached Bud Underwood, Director of Safety and Security for Coastal Maritime, and asked if he would assist in raising funds for the 2008 FIU Conference. Mr. Underwood secured a \$1,000 donation from his employer, ensuring the success of the conference.

In August 2009, members of the JSO SWAT Team needed a container for storage purposes at the JSO Firing Range. Officer Faulk, JSO Seaport Unit, contacted Mr. Underwood, who found a 40' watertight maritime steel shipping container valued at more than \$8,000 for the SWAT Unit to use. He also supports other charities unrelated to law enforcement.



## *Certificate of Appreciation*

### GEOFF YOUNGBLOOD

Each month a JSO officer is selected as "Zone 3's Finest." Geoff Youngblood wanted to show support for the outstanding work of Zone 3 officers, so when he learned about the award, he volunteered to become the award sponsor. He donated a memorial plaque to Zone 3, listing each of the recipient's names. In addition to the plaque, Mr. Youngblood, through his business, "Tools for a Time," awards the selected officer with a \$100 gift certificate each month.

Geoff helps Zone 3 fund the production of a Challenge Coin, given to the officer who demonstrates a positive performance and the core values of the JSO. Additionally, he sponsors challenges in which our motorcycle officers routinely participate. These challenges (rodeos) help keep the officers' skills honed so they can expertly patrol the streets and serve citizens.