

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Officer of the Month

ROBBIE FREITAS

In June 2005, the JSO hosted the 2005 Florida Police & Fire Games, an event not held in Jacksonville since 1990, so it was important for the agency and the city to put forth their best efforts. Months of planning were spent to win the bid for the games, secure hotels, recruit volunteers, identify and secure venues for the sporting events to take place, round-up JSO Coordinators for the sporting events and handle a myriad of issues that arise at an event of this magnitude.

Officer Robbie Freitas was charged with coordinating this event because of his proven ability to get things done. He has organized the hugely successful "Guns & Hoses" boxing event for the past seven years, and his ability to work with many personalities to achieve the common goal is well documented.

Freitas worked with the directors of the Florida Police & Fire Games to not only win a two-year bid for our city, but also to put on a very successful event. The Games were held June 18-25, during which time an estimated 4,000-4,500 people were in town for the 52 sporting events held all over Duval County. Nearly 3,000 police and correctional officers and firefighters participated in the competitions – all of which were coordinated by JSO personnel answering to Freitas. In addition to the tremendous camaraderie and networking that these games encourage, the estimated economic impact to the City of Jacksonville was a whopping \$4 Million!

Congratulations to Officer Freitas for being named Officer of the Month.



Reserve Officer of the Month

BILL HARTLEY

RO Bill Hartley, who retired from the Navy and began a second career in auto sales, joined the JSO 14 years ago. After spending time as a reserve patrolman he was promoted to sergeant, then lieutenant, shortly after being honored as officer of the month. By far the best communicator for our organization, he maintains a website with all the latest information on events, allowing the wiser reserves to plan their month's points.

During a call out, if he asks for help he is most likely already enroute or on site. He keeps his supervisors well informed with daily information. With the reduction in force due to a lack of new volunteers and many retirements, communication is vital to this group. Because of the time and dedication Hartley gives the agency on a day-to-day basis, he is honored as Reserve Officer of the Month.



Civilian Employee of the Month

GLENDA FOOSHEE

In April 2005, Police Emergency Communications Officer Glenda Fooshee was selected Telecommunicator of the Year by her peers. Noted for her dedication and diligence, she always has a pleasant demeanor and goes out of her way to help co-workers any way she can.

Last July, she received a 911 call from a cellular phone, giving no address. When the female caller put the phone down, there seemed to be no way of tracking her location, but Glenda kept the line open. In the background she could hear an argument between a male and female. The female kept asking the male why he came to her apartment with a gun, and did he plan on killing her in front of the children. She did say a street name, but no address, and in the struggle she screamed for the male not to kill her. The line disconnected after almost eight minutes.

Glenda called the number and the female said she was okay, but the male was still at the residence and the female and the children were still in danger. Glenda asked her several times if she was on Lincoln Ct. and if she lived in Roosevelt Garden Apartments, to which she would reply "yes," but she was unable to give the numerical address, without which she would be almost impossible to find. Because Glenda felt confident this caller would not survive the fight and that the police needed to respond, she did not give up. She did a cross reference search, a JEA search, and a 411 lookup. No results. Then she checked previous incident reports on each individual address at Roosevelt Garden Apartments until she found a call placed previously from the same cellular phone number and obtained the address.

Arriving at the location, officers located the victim and learned the male had fled on foot. When Glenda had called the victim back the second time and she insisted that she was okay, the male had a sawed-off shotgun placed to the victim's head and was threatening to kill her. The victim and her children were transported to a safe place and the officers pursued the suspect throughout the night.

PECO Fooshee's diligent efforts on this call no doubt helped save the life of a domestic violence victim. This is just one example of how she goes above and beyond to help the citizens, her co-workers, and the officers. She is an asset to the Communications Center and to the JSO and deserves to be honored as Civilian Employee of the Month.



Police Supervisor of the Month

TIM REDDISH

Sgt. Reddish, who keeps his squad well organized and his officers highly motivated, leads by example to achieve goals and exceed expectations. Last August he identified an after-hours club as the source of several continuing problems and deployed a squad to investigate alcohol served after authorized hours. The club manager was arrested for several beverage law violations and weapons charges.

Also in August, Reddish coordinated his officers in locating suspects who had just committed three vehicle burglaries. The next night, he initiated a motorcycle traffic stop where the driver avoided stopping and instead circled around behind a closed business. He kept his back to Reddish, refused to show his hands and appeared to have an item wedged between his leg and the gas tank. After several commands, the suspect stood and a handgun fell to the ground. Arrested for carrying a concealed firearm, he was also identified as associated with the owners of the after-hours club mentioned above.

Reddish is to be commended for his dedication, leadership by example, and ability to direct others. He is an asset to the JSO and exemplifies the core values of *Community Focused* and *Always Improving*.

Correctional Supervisor of the Month

TOMMY POWELL (photo not shown)

Sgt. Powell, a 19-year JSO veteran (17 years as a supervisor), has trained and guided many officers who have gone on to become supervisors by following his example. His current assignment is Watch I, 4th floor/Property room, but he can work any assignment in Operations without hesitation. Because of his proficiency and leadership ability, he is used as an SIC in the absence of his supervisor – an assignment he takes on with the tenacity of a bulldog. It is also where his experience and job knowledge are put to the test, which he does every time. It is an honor to recognize Sergeant Tommy Powell as the Supervisor of the Month.

Correctional Officer of the Month

JERRY JOWERS (photo not shown)

Officer Jowers' overall performance has been nothing less than outstanding. While assigned to the Intake/Transfer/Releasing area (ITR), which is considered a high-liability and high-risk area, he has distinguished himself as a dedicated and professional officer among his peers.

Last June, Jowers encountered an agitated new inmate who was concerned about his daughter's well being. Jowers questioned the inmate, investigated the situation and learned that the daughter was safe and with a responsible adult. His concern for the safety of the child calmed the inmate and gained his compliance.

During his career Jowers has increased his knowledge and worth to the DOC and the JSO by obtaining dual certification (Corrections and Police). He has processed approximately 1,000 add-on arrest forms, preventing the need to call patrol officers from their zones to serve these necessary documents. As a Field Training Officer, his duties include training and mentoring newly assigned personnel. Because of his outstanding performance, professional attitude, and dedication to JSO's Core Values, Officer Jowers well deserves recognition as Officer of the Month.

Certificates of Appreciation

OFFICER JOHN HYSLER,

OFFICER DAVID BAKER (photos not shown)

During the summer of 2005, several Jacksonville banks and credit unions were plagued with a series of burglaries, resulting in more than a half million dollars loss from their ATM machines. On July 30, Officers John Hysler and David Baker began surveillance behind the Navy Federal Credit Union at 8100 Blanding Boulevard and the nearby Coastal Federal Credit Union. Strategically hidden in woods behind a shopping plaza where they had a clear view of both locations, the officers waited more than six hours before they saw two vehicles drive behind the CFCU.

Four suspects cased the building and checked the woods (unsuccessfully) for observers. They cut phone lines and alarm wires, then pried open the back door and entered, setting off an alarm. The crooks fled the area while both officers relayed the activities of the suspects, including the vehicle type and direction in which they fled, to members of a nearby burglary task force. One suspect was apprehended that night and, based on information from that arrest, the other suspects were located and arrested.

Baker and Hysler, unselfishly working as a team in this surveillance operation, demonstrated tenacity and well-trained discipline to react at the proper time. Dangerous suspects were removed from the streets, preventing their continued criminal activities. This exemplifies the Sheriff's Office core values: *Worthy of Trust*, *Always Improving* and *Community Focused*. These officers reflect the best of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and are to be commended for their excellent work.

Information on this page prepared and submitted by Melissa D. Wilder, Meritorious Awards Coordinator, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office