

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Officer of the Month

PETE C. GOODY

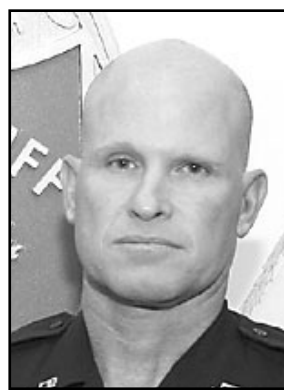
Police Marine Officer Pete Goody is Officer of the Month because he demonstrates superior decision-making skills when faced with life-threatening situations on Jacksonville's waterways. Last March 23, Goody responded to the Mill Cove area of the St. Johns River where two adults and two juveniles, ages 14 and 16, were stranded on two Jet Skis. They had been skiing in the river and traveled too far inland. As the tide began to recede, the Jet Skis became trapped in the silt.

When Goody determined that the victims were too far from shore to be rescued by land and too far from a navigable waterway to be rescued by boat, he contacted the Coast Guard for assistance. Because of the juveniles' ages, the falling temperatures and the fading light, the Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter from Savanna to hoist the victims to safety. Goody stayed with the four victims for more than seven hours, consistently working on ways to free them from the silt before the Coast Guard was able to lift the victims to safety.

On June 12, Goody responded to the Fuller Warren Bridge in reference to a missing person in the St. John's River. A personal watercraft was towing a person on an inflatable inner tube at night when the passenger fell from the inner tube into the river and his whereabouts were unknown. Goody immediately gathered information from the vessel operator, began a calculated grid search of the area, and the victim was located, unharmed, within 45 minutes.

A member of the Marine Unit for three years, Goody consistently leads his squad in arrests and citations. He was commended by the Citizens of Goodby's Creek for his commitment to protect the manatees and by David Percy, operator of the Palm Cove Marina, for issuing illegal sanitation dumping citations to offending sail boats in the area.

Sheriff Rutherford praised him for "demonstrating initiative and a commitment to excellence in all of your interactions with our citizens." Congratulations on receiving this award.



Police Sergeant of the Month

GARY S. COBB

Gary Cobb is honored this month because of the excellent example he sets for the officers in Zone 2. During July and August 2007, Jacksonville experienced a series of "smash and grab" burglaries in various parts of the city and to different types of businesses. Officers staked out businesses at night all over the city in an effort to stop these crimes.

On August 24 a citizen at a nearby business heard glass break at the Café Express on Southside Boulevard, looked outside and saw an unknown white male and an unknown black male leaving the area through the parking lot. Officers investigating the crime broadcast a Be on the Look Out (BOLO) for the suspects. Sgt. Cobb directed his officers to continue looking for the suspects in the general vicinity of the incident throughout the night.

Cobb also patrolled the area and at 5:00 a.m. he observed two individuals who matched the BOLO's description, walking through a parking lot less than one mile from the Café Express. He stopped the two men and requested other units to assist him. The suspects were taken into custody, separated and interviewed. Both suspects admitted to the burglary, were transported to the Burglary Unit and were further interviewed about the "smash and grab" crimes. Although the suspects did not admit to any of them, the series of burglaries stopped after their arrests.

This excellent "catch" is consistent with his reputation as a "hands on," highly informed supervisor. He is an excellent leader who is willing to work with his officers to apprehend the bad guys and get the job done! Congratulations on receiving this award.



Corrections Officer of the Month

HARLAN J. PETERSON

Harlan J. Peterson has been with JSO at the Pre-Trial Detention Facility since November 2006, and in this short time he has earned the respect of coworkers and supervisors because of his quick thinking and decisive actions.

Last June, Peterson was making security rounds in the 6 West dorms when he observed a mental health patient lying on the floor in the back of his cell. Investigating the situation, he realized the inmate had attempted suicide by cutting his wrists and was covered in blood. Peterson radioed

a medical emergency and began to administer first aid. His attention to detail and dedication to investigate the circumstances prevented an unfortunate situation from possibly becoming fatal for the inmate in distress.

Sheriff Rutherford said, "I am impressed with your professionalism and your ability to respond quickly to a challenging situation, and I look forward to hearing more about your career successes in the future. Congratulations on receiving the award for Corrections Officer of the Month."



Reserve Officer of the Month

JAMES J. SMITH

James J. Smith became a Reserve Officer in 2004 after graduating as valedictorian of his class. Serving with distinction, he initially worked with traffic enforcement and learned how important a legitimate traffic stop is in locating individuals with warrants or contraband in their vehicles. He is frequently requested in Zone 2 and has made a name for himself in Zone 5, as well. He understands the details of his job, from report writing, to "how and when"

to act in any given situation.

Smith's former supervisor, Sgt. R. W. Colye, says that "the value of his skills are most noted in the area of officer safety. He is able to stand his ground when needed in order to defuse a violent encounter. Officer Smith does the right thing at the right time."

He also volunteers as a trainer for the new Reserve Unit's Romeo program and believes this program has a direct impact on officer's availability for calls for service. And he took the initiative to develop a single sheet reporting system for ROs to use when reporting their hours. The new daily log has reduced the amount of paper used and has increased the timely reporting of the service hours performed by the reservists.

Reserve Officers play a vital role in protecting our city; these volunteers train, learn how to be ROs and are invaluable to JSO. Congratulations for receiving the Reserve Officer of the Month award.



Civilian of the Month

ACCOUNT CLERK EMMA BARNARD

Emma Barnard of the Community Transition Center (CTC) is Civilian of the Month because of her excellent investigative skills and attention to detail. She assists inmates who send money to civilians, keeping detailed records of recipients and the amounts sent to them.

Last May, she realized that two inmates had requested a large sum of money be sent to the same civilian, a name she recognized. Researching her records, she found that another inmate had also requested a large sum to be sent to the same individual. Meanwhile, Sgt. Stacy Ramos, CTC Intake Supervisor, was searching for an inmate who did not report to work as instructed. This inmate was also on Mrs. Barnard's list of questionable transactions.

She keeps copies of driver's licenses and state identification cards for all civilians who receive money from inmates. Because of her excellent record keeping and attention to detail the CTC officials determined a connection between the missing inmate and the civilian - she was the sister of the inmate's designated driver. Subsequent interviews revealed the inmates were sending funds to support a shoplifting operation. This information was forwarded to the Sheriff's Office and the inmates were disciplined and removed from the work furlough program and the CTC.

The sheriff commended Mrs. Barnard as an asset to the CTC and JSO and expressed appreciation for the "valued and important work you and our other civilians provide. You helped locate a missing inmate and remove another from the work furlough program, and you helped the JSO launch a criminal investigation. You deserve to be the Civilian of the Month. Congratulations."



Medal of Merit

DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER KING

Certificate of Commendation

CHARLES A. HERNDON

A Medal of Merit is presented to an officer who displays exceptional meritorious actions in a hazardous situation, demonstrating exceptional courage by performing a voluntary action in an extremely dangerous situation.

On May 3, 2007, Aviation Officer Charles Herndon and Det. Christopher King were conducting training exercises over the St. Johns River when they were called to the Dames Point Bridge because there was a car crash and a person may have been thrown over the edge of the bridge.

When Herndon and King flew near the bridge, they saw Arlene Payan in the water 20 feet below the bridge, desperately clinging to one of the pylons. Herndon positioned the helicopter in a hover close enough for Christopher to jump into the water, but not close enough for the rotor's wash to batter Ms. Payan against the cement pylon. King grabbed a flotation device, jumped into the river and swam to Ms. Payan. A nearby boater picked the pair up from the water and drove them to a dock where she was examined by the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. Amazingly, Ms. Payan had no injuries from the terrifying incident.

It's Our City! Let's Make It Better!

Information on this page prepared and submitted by Katie Seay, Community and Media Relations Specialist, JSO