

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Reserve Officer of the Month

SGT. MICHAEL BRAGG

Sgt. Bragg volunteers more than 100 hours each quarter for the JSO, almost double the time required. A supervisor who manages eight officers, he also oversees the Huguenot Park Reserve Squad and is the liaison between the JSO's 4-Wheel Drive Unit and the park's administrators. And he patrols the park providing an additional law enforcement presence when necessary. He responds to nearly every call-out the unit is given, including weather related events, homicide and crime scenes, and serious traffic crashes that include fatalities. He has also been involved

with Code Enforcement and Operation Safe Streets deployments.

As with all Reserve Officers, Bragg is a valuable resource to the JSO. He has a family and is the owner and president of Bragg Avionics, yet for eight years he has taken time away from his life to help maintain a strong law enforcement presence in the city.



Police Officer of the Month

TRENT M. HELMS

Officer Trent Helms is recognized this month for effective crime prevention in Zone 6. An example of his resourcefulness occurred one night last May when he was called to assist another officer with two suspects who were apprehended after business hours at the Busch Drive Business Park. Found with spray paint in their possession, the two admitted they planned to get "high" and then "tag" the walls of the businesses. Searching the duo, Helms also found a digital camera with pictures of other buildings the two would-be artists had already "tagged" over the last few months, where damages exceeded \$10,000, and they were charged with four counts of Felony Criminal Mischief.

Next, Helms saw a way to use the JSO's communication center's "Code Red" system to communicate with citizens in his Zone. More commonly called "Reverse 911," the system, which can broadcast information to all homes in Jacksonville, or to specific geographic areas as needed, automatically dials citizens' phones and plays a recorded message if no one answers.

Working with a Crime Analyst, Helms had discovered that automobile/residential burglaries traditionally spike during the last week of school to three weeks after. Armed with this knowledge, Helms used Reverse 911 to remind residents that school was out and they should take steps to prevent auto burglaries and thefts: locking vehicles and removing high value items such as lap tops, GPS units, IPODS, and cell phones from their vehicles. Helms' preemptive strategy contributed to a 61.36% reduction in auto burglaries and an 18.75% reduction in home burglaries in Zone 6, compared to the same time last year. (*reported by the JSO Crime Analysis Unit.)



Police Supervisor of the Month

SERGEANT ROBERT "BOBBY" LYLE

Bobby Lyle served as the Operation Safe Streets (OSS) II coordinator from February to June 2008. OSS is the JSO's response to murder and gun crime in Jacksonville that includes an increased police presence in "hot spot" locations throughout the city where officers spent additional overtime to walk the neighborhoods, knock on the doors of homes and businesses and engage citizens in conversations about crime and offer crime prevention tips while inviting them to work with JSO.

Lyle scheduled 72 officers to work the overtime, as well as other special units that participated. To effectively manage these responsibilities, he created a computer program to track officers who wanted to volunteer and the daily progress of OSS. In addition, he developed an interactive webpage on 94Net (JSO employee intranet) that contained direct links to other city entities, resources, a grid map of the OSS areas, upcoming events, and recognition for outstanding performers.

A thorough manager who chose to work on the streets, Lyle learned first hand what the officers needed to make the initiative a success. OSS II contacted more than 33,000 citizens in the four-month period, and as of May 31, 2008, murder in the OSS II assigned areas had been reduced by 56 percent as compared to the four months preceding. (*Statistics confirmed by CAU.)

Lyle's policies have been incorporated into OSS III which began in October of 2008. He has since been given command of the Field Training Office and will no longer be directly involved in running OSS III.



Civilian Employee of the Month

FREDA B. MCDOWELL

Fingerprint Technician Freda McDowell does an outstanding job meticulously researching problems and resolving them accurately. Last June she noted a discrepancy on a warrant for Violation of Probation and, after researching the woman's criminal history record, learned the warrant had already been served and the woman was in jail serving time for the offense.

Also in June, Ms. McDowell was asked to do a name check on an arrest warrant involving twins. She discovered there was an outstanding arrest warrant for Driving While License Suspended that should be served

to one of the brothers, but which one? She requested a copy of the original traffic citation and used fingerprint verification to determine that one man had used his brother's ID. The correct offender was then charged.

Ms. McDowell helped Officer Bass remove an armed felon from the streets when she spent much time and effort to obtain a Palm County arrest record on the suspect, which enabled Bass to tack on an additional charge of Possession of a Firearm or Concealed Weapon by a Convicted Felon and confiscate his weapon.



Civilian Supervisor of the Month

WILLIAM "BILL" WINSTEAD

Facilities Manager Bill Winstead plans and coordinates the maintenance and construction required at ALL JSO facilities. This includes the Police Memorial Building, Pre-Trial Detention Facility, all six substations, Montgomery Correctional Center, Community Transition Center, Property and Evidence Warehouse, Air Unit located at Craig Airfield, and all other JSO locations.

In addition to his daily responsibilities, Bill completed the following projects from Jan. to July 2008: renovated the old Supervisor of Elections warehouse, creating the temporary Zone 5 Substation; installed new carpet in Homicide and Sex Crimes Units, staff stairwell, East and West 3rd Floor balconies and the Zone 2 substation; constructed new public counter at the Zone 2 substation; constructed a new counter for the police service technicians at the Property and Evidence Warehouse; constructed new offices at the Vehicle Impound Warehouse.

He is also responsible for renovating our Drill Hall and is currently overseeing the roof replacement at the PMB and the construction of an 8000-square-foot office complex for the Jacksonville Re-entry Center adjacent to the Zone 5 substation on Superior Street. He is a state-certified Building Contractor and stays up-to-date with building code changes in order to provide us with the safest and best maintained facilities possible.



Special Presentation

POLICE EXPLORERS

The Police Explorers presented \$10,000 to Sheriff Rutherford and \$2,500 to JSO Asst. Chief Greg Burton, board member of the Sickle Cell Foundation. These young people raised money by parking cars at the Jacksonville Florida-Georgia Football game at North Florida Shipyard. JSO will donate the \$10,000 to the Police Athletic League's general fund to be applied to the everyday education and athletic programming that PAL provides to the Jacksonville community.

The money received for the Sickle Cell Foundation will go directly to help families pay utilities or funeral expenses, and it provides Christmas gifts, summer camp memberships and other fun activities for children afflicted with Sickle Cell disease.

To learn more about JSO's Police Explorer Program, visit this website: <http://coj.net/Departments/Sheriffs+Office/Community+Affairs>.