

To Protect and Serve

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Officer of the Month

MIKE PANKHURST

Detective Pankhurst, the Fugitive Unit transportation officer, is responsible for compiling and organizing information related to prisoner transports. By developing working relationships with other state agencies, he has arranged on many occasions for other counties to bring prisoners to a central meeting point, eliminating our need to travel to south Florida.

For many years the fugitive Unit has transported prisoners to an Orange Park mental health facility for court-ordered examinations. In March, Circuit Judge Michael Weatherby, aware of reduced manpower problems within the Fugitive Unit

and the possibility that many court orders could be eliminated, organized meetings which resulted in the doctors involved agreeing to conduct exams at the jail. Eliminating the transport of prisoners to Orange Park each week will result in an annual savings of \$41,000.

Pankhurst is a well-organized, professional police officer who believes in getting the job done in the most efficient manner possible. He is a problem solver who does not hesitate to let his sergeant know when there is a problem, how he has already solved it or make suggestions on getting it solved. He displays qualities representing each of the JSO core values and is worthy of his selection as the Police Officer of the Month.



Police Supervisor of the Month

SERGEANT RICKY HIKE

From April through June, Sgt. Hike was assigned the task of completing the Chiefs' Challenge book for the State of Florida in the "Florida Law Enforcement Challenge 2004." This campaign focused on DUI, speeding and safety belt violations, with stats compiled from all the zone traffic and patrol units. Hike completed this daunting task while fulfilling the responsibilities of Zone Four traffic sergeant.

As a direct result of the outstanding job he did, the JSO was awarded more than \$20,000 in equipment including two equipment trailers, a portable speed sign, two laser units and one radar unit. At a June ceremony in Jacksonville, hosted by the Buckle Up Florida program, the JSO was awarded second place statewide and third in the nation in the overall challenge.

Eighty-two law enforcement agencies entered the challenge and each was judged against agencies of similar type and size. Highlighted accomplishments include participation in the Buckle Up Florida Campaign, You Drink and Drive - You Lose, Aggressive DUI Enforcement, active child passenger safety program, and a zero-tolerance policy for safety belt violations.

Sgt. Hike is commended for his dedication to this project while performing his normal duties and for enabling this agency to receive accolades across the state and nation. Congratulations on being selected Police Supervisor of the Month.



Correctional Supervisor Officer of the Month

DWAYNE PRICE

For many years, high-risk inmates have had to be transported outside our county for court-ordered psychological examinations. Requiring two officers, these transports are costly and risky. Past efforts to provide space in the Pre-Detention Facility for these exams have been unsuccessful, but Sgt. Price came up with an ideal solution using a combination of program space and interview rooms.

The doctors agreed to do exams in the PDF on a trial basis, and, thus far, it appears this arrangement will work for the majority of the court-ordered examinations - without additional

personnel expenses or transportation risks.

Price's performance in this situation mirrors the dedication he shows as sergeant of the Security Unit of the Jails Division. He deals with high profile and highest security inmates in our system, managing their movement, housing and any other issues that arise in dealing with this difficult population. He often reports in after hours and on weekends to assist in security-related problems, and is a great source of information on the historical behavior of our special needs inmates.

Congratulations on being named Correctional Supervisor of the Month.



Reserve Officer of the Month

JAMES MERRIHEW

James Merrihew, a reserve officer for 22 years, has always been professional and willing to help in any capacity at a moment's notice. He works well with fellow officers and possesses a wealth of knowledge about police matters. His supervisor says that with Officer Merrihew as his backup, he always feels comfortable.

Remaining strong through tragic times in his life, he beams like a bright light which encourages everyone with whom he comes in contact. He always has positive, complimentary remarks when he

speaks of fellow officers and his supervisory staff.

When not working as a reserve officer, he drives an 18-wheeler, delivering materials to companies within our community - another job that requires caution, alertness and commitment to the job. He clearly loves his assignments in the Reserve Unit, working such events as a recent heavy metal concert and the Greater Jacksonville Fair.

Officer Merrihew deserves this recognition as Reserve Officer of the Month



Civilian Employee of the Month

JOANN THOMAS

For 15 years Joann Thomas has been an integral part of the JSO Jails Division. PDF (Pre-Detention Facility) personnel book more than 50,000 inmates a year, generating enormous volumes of paperwork. Joann has developed many filing system checks and balances to ensure paperwork is correctly filed.

While this may seem to be a simple task (but for the volume), it is critical in defending against inmates' litigation for profit. Her ability to quickly find accurate records (which disproved some of the spurious claims of former inmates) has saved

taxpayers an incalculable amount of money over the years.

But we can calculate the amount of money Joann saved the JSO last year through her inmate medical co-payment data entry. Inmates in our correctional institutions are charged a co-pay, just like the rest of us. In 2003, Joann recouped \$33,446.34 from the residents of our three facilities.

She recently supervised (in addition to her daily duties) the review of more than 500 names of former inmates for the Department of Health, providing information valuable to epidemiological research. She performs perfectly every assigned task, never complains, handles stress well and is always even tempered. Joann is valued for the little things she does that make the work environment at the PDF a little more tolerable. Her supervisors and co-workers state that she is truly a joy to work with.

Congratulations on being selected Civilian Employee of the Month.



Correctional Officer of the Month

KENNETH WESTBERRY

An exemplary nine-year veteran of the JSO, Officer Kenneth Westberry has worked in most areas of the jail and is currently assigned as a releasing officer on the third floor relief squad. He has been trained as an intoxilizer officer and maintains his certification solely to assist ITR (Intake-Transfer-Release) when there is a backlog of DUIs.

Maintaining a zero percent releasing error rate, Westberry consistently catches errors with inmates' folders and paperwork and is often asked by other officers to assist them in fixing

problems or errors. He regularly attends meetings in his off-duty hours to ensure his shift is represented and their concerns addressed.

Because of Westberry's superior knowledge of written directives, he is often asked by supervisors to give his opinion on new policies and procedures. During conversion to the jail's new Correctional Management Information System (CMIS), he recommended many changes and caught numerous errors and bugs in the system. He assisted other officers in learning the system and suggested improvements in both the system and the CMIS operation manual.

Officer Westberry continues to seek improvements and modifications with the system and is always ready to assist fellow officers. He is a fine example of a CO and a worthy selection as Correctional Officer of the Month.

Lifesaving Awards

PILOTS DAVID ANDERSON, JR., and WAYNE BEATY



Ofc. David Anderson



Ofc. Wayne Beaty

On July 15th, Officers Anderson and Beaty (Air One) were dispatched to the Butler Bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway where an individual had jumped from the bridge at mid-span. Rescue personnel determined that, due to the subject's position in the marsh and his proximity to the bridge structure, accessing him by foot, water or rope would be impossible.

Air One landed on the bridge in high winds (and surrounded by utility poles), picked up Fire Rescue Lt. Donald A. Hinson, transported him to the marsh near the injured subject and, unable to land in the mud, hovered while he disembarked. Anderson then transported Beaty to the scene to assist Hinson.

Cast in the temporary role of paramedic assistant, Beaty helped Hinson treat, stabilize and prepare the individual for extraction from the marsh. Anderson, meanwhile, requested assistance from NAS Mayport's heavy-lift SH-60 helicopters, but they couldn't land in the mud nor get closer than 35 yards to the bridge.

Hinson, Beaty, and a Navy crewman carried the subject on a litter through sometimes knee-deep mud to the waiting Navy helicopter. Transported to Shands trauma center, the individual survived although he suffered permanent disabling injuries from the fall.

Because time was crucial, Lt. Hinson attributed the fact that the man did survive to Anderson's quick decision to insert rescuers directly onto the marsh by helicopter and his skill in doing so despite obstructions and winds, and to Officer Beaty's assistance in treating and extricating him.

This incident was successful due to the cooperation and coordination of the JSO, the Fire and Rescue Department, the FFWCC, the U.S. Navy, and Jacksonville Beach Police and Fire Departments. All who participated are commended for a job well done. I am proud to present Officers Anderson and Beaty with JSO's Life-saving award for their heroic efforts in this situation.