

# TO PROTECT AND SERVE

*Our monthly recognition for the best of the best*



## *Police Supervisor of the Month*

### **SGT. HAL ATKINSON**

In May 2005, a task force was developed to address a series of sexual batteries in northwest Jacksonville. Sgt. Atkinson, responsible for the daily management of this intensive investigation, coordinated efforts between the Sex Crimes Unit, the Career Criminal Unit, the Vice Unit, the Intelligence Unit, evidence technicians and FDLE analysts. Atkinson participated in directing deployments, serving search and arrest warrants, locating victims and monitoring interviews.

He exhausted numerous hours of his personal time, and as a result of his excellent organization, supervision, direction and leadership, the task force was a success. On June 28, Milton Boston was charged with three counts of sexual battery, which were linked via DNA evidence. On July 27, Boston was charged with an additional nine counts of sexual battery, six counts of kidnapping, three counts of strong-armed robbery and one count of felony battery.

Atkinson also led a task force (equally time-consuming and intensive) investigating sexual batteries and burglaries in the Baymeadows area, which resulted in the arrest of suspect Earl Ray. He has managed these special assignments while effectively supervising a squad of detectives and performing other duties. Always selfless and professional in his work, Atkinson's continued commitment to the Sex Crimes Unit clearly reflect JSO's core values, Worthy of Trust, Respect for Each Other and Community Focused. Congratulations on being named Police Supervisor of the Month.



## *Certificate of Commendation*

### **LT. MICHELLE COOK**

For more than a year, Lt. Cook has been commanding officer of the FTO unit, assigned to manage field training, probationary evaluations and mentoring assignments for more than 125 new police officers. She developed, and manages, a field training program for the new Community Service Officer program.

During the very busy hurricane season of 2004, Cook took a lead role in helping prepare our agency's response and coordinating the Mutual Aid responses to other areas of the state. During the Super Bowl, she assisted in the planning function and played a major role in credentialing all public safety personnel.

Recently, a pattern of auto burglaries was identified - suspects breaking into cars at funeral homes, churches and cemeteries. Assigned to oversee the investigation, Cook and her unit within days compiled a vast amount of information and possible suspects, two of whom were arrested and interviewed. They confessed to many of the crimes and implicated others who were subsequently arrested. Altogether, 52 incidents, involving 77 vehicles and 83 victims, were cleared.

Additionally, after the Gulf coast was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, Cook coordinated with our Homeland Security Division and the State EOC to provide requested resources; she then volunteered to respond with the team. As commanding officer, she took charge of a situation where local authorities were exhausted and overworked, setting up schedules to handle law enforcement needs, including staffing an overcrowded, understaffed county jail. Feedback from the area was very complimentary of Cook and her team.

Lt. Cook always does an outstanding job in a professional manner and is commended for her dedication and commitment to this community and our agency.



## *Correctional Supervisor of the Month*

### **SGT. CRAIG BLUNT**

Sgt. Blunt, assigned to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility, has been a JSO employee for more than seven years. His hands-on, firm and fair supervision style has established a good rapport with inmates in his area of responsibility that allows him to receive valuable information from them at times.

In May, while Blunt was performing security and sanitation rounds, he received information from an inmate that a contract commissary employee was bringing marijuana and cigarettes into the facility. He investigated the information, informed his supervisor, and detectives confiscated the items before she was able to make the delivery into the dorms. Arrested for smuggling contraband, the contract employee admitted she had delivered tobacco to the same dorm the preceding week.

Blunt demonstrated his dedication to duty by following up on the information he received in order to ensure the safety and security of the PTFD. His actions are exemplary and are worthy of recognition as Supervisor of the Month.

## *Police Officer of the Month*

### **DET. ROBERT GARRISON** (photo not shown)

In April 2003, Det. Garrison began investigating a Vietnamese drug trafficking organization that was delivering large quantities of MDMA pills (Ecstasy) and highly potent hydroponics marijuana (BC Bud) from Canada to Jacksonville. He learned of the organization during a series of MDMA buys that began in the former "Evolutions" nightclub and led to several arrests of subjects who agreed to become confidential informants. They identified their suppliers who also became informants, and one of them, an upper-level member of the organization who had valuable intelligence on its operations and direct contact with the main targets, recorded phone calls and meetings with those targets.

for more on Det. Garrison... see page 5



## *Correctional Officer of the Month*

### **BOB THOMASON**

Recently, the Florida Association of Chemical Testers named Officer Thomason the Agency Inspector of the Year for his outstanding abilities to complete affidavits, forms and all of the DUI-related paperwork he generates. He was also recognized for his cooperation with the State Attorney's Office, his knowledge of breath-testing issues and his professionalism in the courtroom.

The prosecution of DUI begins on the street with the impaired driver, the arresting officer and the breath-testing operator at the jail. Successful prosecution ends with all of those individuals and the accurate documentation and testimony regarding either the breath test or the refusal. Thomason ensures that all affidavits, forms and paperwork conform to the highest standards as set forth by FDLE and as executed by the JSO breath-test operators.

His enthusiasm to not only maintain but to increase his expertise in the breath-testing process makes him a tremendous asset to the JSO and SAO as the two agencies prepare to transition from the Intoxilyzer 5000 to the Intoxilyzer 8000.

Officer Thomason demonstrates the four core values of the JSO in his daily duties and is commended for a job well done.



## *Reserve Officer of the Month*

### **BILL COYLE**

Sgt. Bill Coyle, a reserve officer since June 2002, is one of those rare individuals who can always be counted on, regardless of the situation. He is a dedicated officer, community-oriented, and sets a standard for what we need in this unit and this city. In 2004, Coyle enrolled in classes at FCCJ and obtained his Basic Law Enforcement Certification for the State of Florida and was a class leader.

Leadership is one of his talents, displayed in his duties as sergeant over a squad of eight reserve officers. He volunteers to fill numerous special assignments and patrol rides and can always be depended on to assist with emergency callouts, placing himself on those duties to ensure sufficient manpower.

The JSO Reserve Unit is proud to have Sgt. Bill Coyle as a contributing member, and he deserves recognition as Reserve Officer of the Month.



## *Civilian Employee of the Month*

### **GEORGE PARSONS**

George Parsons, a retired sergeant from Baltimore, brought considerable experience to the JSO, where he was a training specialist for almost three years. He improved our overall training process, bringing innovation and energy to the Academy. For in-service training, George scheduled the curriculum, contacted and put instructors and substitutes in place, facilitated the individual weekly classes and taught or assisted with teaching several blocks of training.

Every training session concludes with a course evaluation, which is used to analyze training effectiveness and identify instructor strengths and weaknesses. George was named specifically, week after week, as the instructor most appreciated for his contribution, professionalism, helpfulness, and cooperation. This is a unique compliment from probably the "toughest crowd" in training.

George has now moved on to assist training St. Johns County officers, who are truly lucky to have him on their staff. A proven asset to our agency, we miss him and happily recognize his excellence by naming him Civilian Employee of the Month.

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