

Officers of the Year

Our recognition for the best of the year



Civilian Employee of the Year

JAMES VAN GORDER

Mr. Van Gorder is a Dispatch Trainer for Emergency Communications Officers in the Communication Center. An experienced dispatcher, he can handle multiple calls for service and dispatch Patrol Officers without skipping a beat. Always calm, he does not show signs of distress, anger or confusion during stressful or emergency situations. On a moments notice, he will stay late or work overtime. He currently provides classroom instruction to personnel

training to be dispatchers.

Mr. Van Gorder also has a vast knowledge of computers, including the CAD system, laptops, and PCs that operate the NCIC/FCIC software. He works with the ISM unit to ensure that the needs of the Center are met and to assist in troubleshooting software. In 2002 when the Center underwent a major CAD system upgrade, Mr. Van Gorder was involved in every step. He worked closely with Printrak to ensure the new system and the Center were operating efficiently.

He has a reputation for extending his duties and contributions well beyond that of his title. Personnel in the Communications Center have expressed how proud they are to have him as a fellow employee and friend.

In March of 2003, he was honored as the Employee of the Month. I am pleased to announce today that he was selected as the Civilian Employee of the Year.



Correctional Officer of the Year

CONSTANCE BARAHONA

Officer Barahona, a JSO employee since 1996, has developed many skills during her tenure in the Department of Corrections and applied them to her current position as the lead member of the PTFD Laundry Unit. She supervises and assigns tasks on a daily basis to almost 20 trustees who provide the laundry services for more than 2100 inmates.

She manages the inventory, tracking and transferring of all inmate clothing, linens and blankets at the jail. Because of her excellent leadership and supervisory skills, she identified and enhanced the preventative maintenance plan of the machinery to reduce down-time. She also identified, researched, and implemented a plan to reduce the normal wear and tear of the clothing during the laundry process. By her initiative and motivation to enhance just these two factors, Officer Barahona continues to save the Department an enormous amount of money each year.

Officer Barahona, we are proud of you for all that you have accomplished and thank you for all of your hard work. In June of 2003, she was honored as the Correctional Officer of the Month; I am pleased to announce today that she has been selected as the Correctional Officer of the Year.



Volunteer of the Year

A.O. "LEE" LeFORT

Mr. LeFort, a volunteer in the Detective Division, has been with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office since 1991, when he retired from the United States Army. Since starting with the JSO, he has donated more than 2700 hours of his time. Most of his time has been spent in Robbery, processing and filing Polaroid mug shots submitted by various detective units. Mug shots are now computerized, so Mr. LeFort stays busy updating the system. He purges old

photos of repeat offenders after checking for their presence in the current JPICS system, which makes it easier for detectives to locate and retrieve the most recent photos.

Mr. LeFort also assists detectives in the Auto Theft Unit with victim contacts. Thank you for your unselfish dedication. If you miss a day at work, the detectives notice your absence. We are truly blessed to have you on board. Thank you for your commitment, and congratulations on being selected the Volunteer of the Year.



Correctional Supervisor of the Year

SGT. GLORIA CHAPPELL

Sgt. Gloria Chappell, assigned to the Pre-Trial Detention Facility, has been with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office since 1984. She expects the highest degree of professionalism from her officers. Under her watch, there have been zero error rates on releases, court paperwork and facility counts.

Due to her location on the third floor, Sgt. Chappell often contends with problematic inmates. No matter how great the challenge, she handles the inmates and sensitive situations with exceptionally good judgment. Her squad has learned that she can be counted on to make the correct decision and assist them whenever needed.

Sergeant Chappell is not above lending a helping hand when an area is short or work is backed up. Her willingness to teach and support her squad and others in their duties has produced a solid team of experienced and reliable officers. In fact, her squad submitted the nomination form that won her the honor of being selected as the Correctional Supervisor of the Month in January of 2003.

I am pleased to announce today that she has been selected as the Correctional Supervisor of the Year.



Police Supervisor of the Year

SGT. JAMES SUBER, JR.

Sergeant Jim Suber, Special Events Coordinator and the Marine Unit Supervisor, has been with the JSO for 28 years. In his duties he coordinates security and traffic surrounding special events such as New Years Eve, Fourth of July, and Veteran's Day activities. He is also involved in planning Jaguars football games and other special games played at Alltel Stadium.

Sergeant Suber's additional duties include participation in staff studies regarding the selection of JSO vehicles, motorcycles and marine vessels; additionally, he is the primary contact for all police escorts. These escorts must be planned with the greatest of detail to ensure safety for everyone. He has coordinated escorts to include protection and movement of Presidents of the United States as well as other dignitaries, both domestic and foreign.

Regarded as a traffic safety expert, he also serves on numerous other committees and advisory boards. He has a reputation for successfully accomplishing many tasks for this agency and this community.

In March of 2003, he was honored as the Police Supervisor of the Month. I am pleased to announce today that he was selected as the Police Supervisor of the Year.

Congratulations, Sergeant Suber.

Police Officer of the Year

ROBERT COOK (Picture not shown due to current assignment)

Detective Robert Cook is assigned to the Organized Crime Tactical Unit where he has gone above and beyond his normal duties. In the words of his supervisor, "He has worked tirelessly to make a difference in eliminating the open-air drug markets."

He has been responsible for coordinating and initiating stings in several target areas in our county, with priority based on calls for service and complaints of drug activity. During these operations, Detective Cook has to frequent the target areas, putting himself in harm's way most of the time. His investigations entail identifying the suspects, gaining evidence, obtaining arrest warrants and then executing the warrants. He must coordinate his efforts with other units, including patrol, in the target areas to ensure that he is not interfering with other investigations and to get assistance in making the arrests. As a result of his efforts in the past year, more than 70 suspects have been arrested for a total of more than 100 cases for sale of cocaine, robbery and theft.

Detective Cook, we appreciate your dedication to this agency and the citizens of Jacksonville. In February 2003 he was honored as the Police Officer of the Month. I am pleased to announce today that he was selected as the Police Officer of the Year.

officers who work every day to make our city safer.