

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Our monthly recognition for the best of the best



Police Supervisor of the Month

SGT. "T.C." DAVIS

Recently, Sgt. Davis attacked an increasing auto theft problem by developing several strategies, including public education, enforcement and bait car deployments. In Zone Four alone, this Auto Theft Abatement Program reduced auto thefts by 17 percent. He took an active role in all phases of the program by participating with his squad and leading them from the front.

An outstanding supervisor in all aspects of his job, Davis continuously conducts roll call training in an effort to better all of our officers. He aggressively attacks crime in his assigned area and always knows where "hot spots" are occurring in Zone Four. He is a team builder and it shows in his squad's demeanor and statistics; they work very hard and all the officers have high morale. He has a monthly off-duty "get together" with his squad and often rides with each one while on duty.

Davis also promotes teamwork with other squads, as well as other watches, by including them in the deployments he devises. He is a pleasure to work with on a daily basis due to his positive attitude towards his career, his agency, and the public. While any sergeant can wear a gold badge or stripes on his uniform, it takes a special person to be an effective, well-rounded, and well-respected supervisor. Congratulations for being recognized as Police Supervisor of the Month.



Civilian Supervisor of the Month

MICHELLE ROYAL

Michelle Royal, Latent Print Supervisor in the Crime Lab, has done some extraordinary work this past year. She enjoys her work and is always eager to assist those needing an item processed or a crime scene print compared, sometimes working weekends or overtime in order to help on a homicide case or another agency's crime investigation.

In one case, a homicide occurred in which the victim was beaten and strangled. The evidence technician recovered a palm print from a leather chair near the body. Michelle photographed

the print, compared it to a possible suspect and was able to make a positive identification of the print to that suspect.

In the second case, Michelle assisted the Clay County Sheriff's Office on a robbery/shooting that occurred at a convenience store. Surveillance cameras recorded the crime committed by an unidentified man and woman. Detectives brought latent prints recovered at the scene to Michelle to input into our AFIS. Within minutes, she identified the pair and detectives arrested both suspects.

Effectively balancing her duties with the many requests she receives, in 2005 she conducted evidence technician refresher training, put together a roll call training segment for the detective division, instructed a courtroom demeanor class for ID employees, and conducted lab/learning tours for school children. Additionally, in an eight-month time frame, she identified more than 500 individual latent fingerprints, including prints in two homicide cases, 17 robberies and 67 burglaries, and processed nearly 700 individual items of evidence for latent prints.

Michelle does an outstanding job in the Crime Lab; she is diligent and puts forth a superior effort in everything she does. She deserves being named Civilian Supervisor of the Month.



Corrections Officer of the Month

OFFICER JERRY WHITTINGTON

During the past year Officer Whittington has enhanced and successfully implemented numerous improvements to the Dept. of Corrections staff and training database, as well as many other developed applications. As the project engineer, he was responsible for designing, building, and placing in production this most critical database.

His vision and determination to complete these complex projects were based on his vast and varied knowledge of both Corrections and computer hardware and software and his

strong commitment to always improving our work proficiency through technological means. He is the ideal person to blend these disciplines to improve and administer the staff and training management system that will effectively serve this department for years to come.

When a major setback occurred in the conversion of FDLE state statutes with current CMIS statute tables, Whittington went through more than 4000 statutes to ensure they matched our current tables. This formidable task, requiring many hours of tedious analysis, was completed on time with the highest possible quality of work - saving thousands of dollars.

Without hesitation, Jerry tackles all challenges and fixes the problems regardless of who is responsible. He demonstrates qualities of performance, dedication, and perseverance that have distinguished him in his career with JSO. He is truly worthy of being recognized as the Corrections Officer of the Month.



Police Officer of the Month

DETECTIVE DAVID MEACHAM

On July 10, 2005, patrol was dispatched to check on an elderly sick couple, but they found no one home and no vehicle in the garage. Although there was no sign of foul play, the responding officer checked NCIC for towing and storage and the local hospital for a report of victims, but there was nothing.

The next day the couple's relatives drove down from South Carolina to search for their parents, and a missing person's report was filed for both James and Carol Sumner. Detectives from the Missing Persons Unit began to investigate their disappearance. After interviewing relatives and conducting a canvass of the area, Homicide Detectives Meacham and Gupton were called to the scene under the direction of Sgt. Lewis.

After looking through the couple's residence, Meacham immediately felt that this was more than a missing person case, and he took some of their financial records to check recent activity - an idea that would later prove to be very valuable. He called several banks and finally reached one that said the victims' ATM card had been used several times throughout Duval and Baker counties on July 9 - 12. Prior to this, the ATM card had only been used once or twice a month.

Meacham immediately made a formal request for banking records and ATM photos. The victims' missing person status was upgraded to foul play suspected, their vehicle placed into NCIC and a re-broadcast of the vehicle put out to all units and surrounding counties. After the re-broadcast, the victims' vehicle was found abandoned in Baker County.

Later that evening, posing as the victims, the suspects called the JSO. During this conversation, Meacham obtained a cell phone number belonging to the suspects. On July 13, detectives requested the assistance of the U.S. Marshal's Office to track the suspects' cell phone. By this time Meacham had obtained photos of a possible suspect using the ATM. Also, both the financial institution and the U.S. Marshal's Office confirmed that the suspects were in Charleston, SC.

Meacham emailed photos of the suspects to the U.S. Marshals and South Carolina Police. On July 14, three suspects were located and arrested for bank fraud, and Meacham and Gupton traveled to Charleston, where interviews with the three yielded important information to the whereabouts of a fourth suspect and the victims' bodies. The fourth suspect, located in Baker County and brought to Jacksonville to be interviewed, led detectives to where the victims' bodies were buried in Charlton County, Georgia.

All four suspects were arrested and charged with the robbery, kidnapping and murder of the Sumners. Because of Det. Meacham's dedication and hard work, with the assistance of other detectives and agencies, he quickly solved this high profile murder and gave closure to the victims' families. His hard work is a testament to his dedication to the JSO and the Homicide Unit, and he is certainly worthy of being named Police Officer of the Month.



Civilian Employee of the Month

JOE CANGEMI

Joe Cangemi, Construction Project Coordinator in the Facilities Management Unit, has supervised several large renovation projects in the past year, as well as coordinating daily maintenance issues associated with various JSO facilities. Those projects include: • complete renovation of the Communications Center, on time and on-budget • construction of the new Press Briefing Room, coordinating contractors and overseeing quality control • renovations in Human Resources, Planning, Civil Process and the Patrol Chiefs' offices • closely involved with Super Bowl preparations, coordinating the renovation and equipping of an Event Command Center and other facility preparations • influential in preparations for this hurricane season, ensuring that facilities are prepared and materials on hand • Construction Project Coordinator for the 711 Building and provides maintenance assistance now that the building is fully occupied • supervised replacement of the 130-ton rooftop chiller, mostly over the weekend to limit disruption of daily operations.

An outstanding employee, Joe is exceptionally conscientious in his performance, shows great initiative and attention to detail, responds to everyday crises in a timely, calm and efficient manner, and serves as an excellent example for all to follow. Congratulations on being selected Civilian Employee of the Month!



Volunteer of the Month

DARA SHAPIRO

Dara Shapiro, a volunteer since last year in the Cold Case Unit under the supervision of Sgt. Parker, has worked four hours every Friday updating the new cold case database - inputting all murder cases from 1959 to the present. Logging more than 141 hours in less than one year, she also maintains a file/database on team cold case activity and a case link analysis on cases that are arrest-intensive.

The JSO is very proud of this volunteer's accomplishments; congratulations for being named Volunteer of the Month.

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