



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Four South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employees Receive Employee Recognition/Service Awards

Leakesville – The Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) employee recognition awards were presented today to four employees at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI). The state prison is located near Leakesville in Greene County. Deputy Commissioner Christopher Epps joined by Superintendent David Turner made the presentations to the recipients. "It is a personal pleasure for me to have the opportunity to present these awards to this dedicated group of employees," said Deputy Commissioner Epps. "Our agency is blessed with outstanding leadership. We are most fortunate not only to have these service award recipients within our ranks, but also the over 540 additional employees hear at SMCI who daily place their lives on the line to make society a safer place for all to live."

The awards presentation conducted on Tuesday was part of a monthly employee recognition program instituted by the agency in July. The program is designed to recognize exemplary employees within MDOC's ranks. The state prison system currently has over 3,600 people in its employ statewide. SMCI began operation as a 500-bed medium security institution in April 1989. Today it houses over 2100 offenders on a daily basis. It currently has a capacity to house 2214 prisoners.

South Mississippi Correctional Institution employees receiving awards for November 2001 included:

Hubert Davis	Correctional Commander SMCI Area - II	Security Officer of the Month
Isom O'Banner	SMCI, Area – I Ground Maintenance	Correctional Officer of the Month
Shelia D. Bradley	Warehouse Clerk III SMCI Warehouse	Staff Employee of the Month
Clara Mickels	Warden Secretary Area I – Warden's Office	Extra Effort Award

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The 2:00 p.m. special awards presentation ceremony was held in the in SMCI II's visitation area. Superintendent David Turner announced the names of the award recipients as Deputy Commissioner Christopher Epps presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, the three Employees of the Month were also presented plaques.

Superintendent David Turner stated, "These awards presentations provide a special opportunity for all of us to pause and be thankful for our many dedicated employees" adding, "life in corrections is difficult and is often stressful. It is proper for us to recognize them for their bravery."

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Awards Recipients

Hubert Davis, Correctional Commander, of Leakesville, and a 12-year veteran with the prison system received the Security Officer of the Month. Nominated by Deputy Warden Johnnie Denmark, Captain Davis was characterized as being a highly dedicated supervisor. "Captain Davis conducts himself in a professional manner and treats everyone with respect and fairness," said Deputy Warden Denmark. "He is blessed with the ability to make management decisions which always turn out to be correct. He never fails to help anyone with a need."

Isom O'Banner, of Brooklyn, and a 7-year veteran Correctional Officer at SMCI, received the Correctional Officer of the Month service award. Nominated by Correctional Commander Patricia Crawford, Officer O'Banner was commended for his never failing positive attitude and his untiring loyalty to his job. "Officer O'Banner epitomizes the ideal characteristics of professional correctional officer," said Captain Crawford. "He completes his daily assignments in a timely manner and he stringently adheres to agency policy." Officer O'Bannon was commended for his untiring allegiance to the MDOC.

Shelia Bradley, of Leakesville and a 6-year veteran with SMCI received the Staff Employee of the Month service award. Assigned to SMCI's warehouse, Ms. Bradley was nominated for the award by Betty Booth a warehouse co-worker. She was commended for her attention to detail and her job organizational skills. "Ms. Bradley is a very professional person and is truly a valuable asset to MDOC," said Ms. Booth. "She has a positive attitude which is reflected in all aspects of her work. She is a delight with whom to be associated."

Clara Mickels, of Lucedale and a 6-year employee at SMCI received MDOC's Extra Effort Award. Nominated by Captain Timothy Morris, Ms. Mickels, who serves as secretary to the warden at SMCI's Area I, was praised for being a team player. "She has brought a degree of pride and enthusiasm to SMCI," said Captain Morris. "Her genuine approach has created an aura of camaraderie. Ms. Mickels volunteers her time to other departments. Her attitude and behavior is a shining example of an outstanding employee. SMCI is most fortunate to have her as a member of its staff."

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In addition, 10 employees were recognized for their years of service to MDOC. SMCI employees that reached a milestone in service during December include:

Name	Hometown	Years of Service
Jarita Bivens	State Line	5
Charla Clarke	Chatom, AL	5
Peggy Eubanks	Leakesville	5
Brenda Gibson	Buckatunna	5
Tina Green	McLain	5
Ruby Johnson	State Line	5
Terri Kilpatrick	Citronelle, AL	5
Jimmy McLeod	Lucedale	5
Charles Scarborough	Citronelle, AL	5
James Wall	Lucedale	5

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Media Note: If you would like a digital photograph of the Service Award recipients, e-mail bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us or phone him at: (601) 359-5646.