



PRESS RELEASE

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Community Services Division Employee Receives Employee Recognition Award Before Leaving for Military Duty

Jackson – A special employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region 2 was held Monday at the central office of MDOC. Field Officer Ted Rogers, who received an Extra Effort Award, is a staff sergeant in the 114th Military Police Company in Clinton. Although the employee awards ceremony for the Community Services Division Region 2 is scheduled for Jan. 14, a special ceremony was held to honor Officer Rogers before he leaves for Fort Campbell, Ky.

Officer Rogers was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by his supervisor, Steve McCraney. Officer Rogers was assigned to the Hinds County Drug Court Diversion Program on March 17, 1999. The diversion program is open to first time drug offenders who admit they have a drug addiction. In addition, offenders must volunteer to enter the program, which is an alternative to incarceration or standard probation. There are currently 54 offenders enrolled in this program.

Due to the Soldier Sailor Relief Act, Officer Rogers' job will be waiting for him when he returns in January 2003. While he is away on military duty, Leonardo Brown will take over as the field officer for the diversion program. "I sincerely dread leaving," said Rogers. "But, we're warriors and we've got to go take care of business."

Region 2 Community Services Director Brenda Blanks and MDOC Commissioner Robert Johnson presented the Extra Effort Award to Officer Rogers in the ceremony. "When an officer goes above and beyond his duties, it is important to me to recognize him," said Blanks. "It is hard for field officers to simply follow policy and procedures and not do more."

"Officer Rogers is a tough act to follow," said Commissioner Johnson. "He is commended for receiving the Extra Effort Award and is appreciated by all of us - those in his military career and MDOC career."

In addition to Officer Rogers, another MDOC field officer is scheduled to leave for military duty for one year as well. Field Officer Victor Montgomery, of Centreville, is also part of the 114th Military Police Company in Clinton. According to MDOC records, seven MDOC employees have been mobilized for military duty.

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MEDIA NOTE: MDOC has digital photos of Field Officers Rogers and Montgomery. If you are interested in receiving a photo, please call Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us.