



# PRESS RELEASE

MISS. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS \* 723 N. PRESIDENT ST. \* JACKSON, MS 39202 \* (601)359-5600 \* (FAX: 5738)

Date: December 17, 2001  
Contact: Ken Jones  
Phone: (601)359-5608  
Fax: (601)359-5624

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Seven MDOC Central Mississippi Correctional Facility Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards**

Pearl – Deputy Commissioner Christopher Epps presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections’ (MDOC) employee recognition awards to seven employees at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Mississippi, on Monday. “I wish not only to salute the service award recipients, but also to extend my deep appreciation to all of our loyal, dedicated men and women at CMCF for a job well done,” said Deputy Commissioner Epps.

The awards presentation was part of an employee service recognition program instituted by MDOC in July 2001 to salute exemplary employees each month within the MDOC. The state corrections agency currently has over 3,700 people in its employ statewide.

#### **Central Mississippi Correctional Facility employees receiving awards for November 2001 included:**

Tomieka Ratliff	Correctional Officer, CMCF - II, Building A	Heroism Award
Donald Mitchell	Correctional Supervisor CMCF - II	Security Employee of the Month
Trendia Mason Hudson	Correctional Officer II CMCF - I, R & C	Correctional Officer of the Month
Julette Mason	Personnel Officer I CMCF - III	Staff Employee of the Month
Tammie Woolfolk	Correctional Disciplinary Investigator, CMCF - I, R & C	Extra Effort Award
Stephanie Perry	Correctional Case Manager CMCF - 3, C - Building	Extra Effort Award
Gwen McClinton	Associate Warden Women’s Unit CMCF 1 - A	Extra Effort Award

(more)

The special awards presentation ceremony was held at 1:30 p.m. in CMCF III's visitation center. Superintendent Lawrence Kelly announced the names of the service awards winners as MDOC Deputy Commissioner Christopher Epps presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, the three Outstanding Employees of the Month along with the officer selected for the Heroism Award each received a plaque.

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility plays a key role in the overall mission of MDOC, according to prison Superintendent Lawrence Kelly. "Our Reception and Classification Center has processed approximately 6000 offenders into the prison system during the first 11 months of 2001," Kelly said. CMCF serves as the central receiving point for the classification of all offenders committed to the supervision of MDOC, and it employs over 650 personnel to operate the 3049-bed facility. "CMCF's staff is to be highly complimented for the excellent job it is doing," said Deputy Commissioner Epps. "Superintendent Kelly obviously has a highly trained and dedicated staff to run this crucial operation. It is regrettable that we can not present awards to all members today. I'm sure there are countless others equally deserving of this coveted recognition."

**Tomieka Ratliff**, Correctional Officer, was nominated by Deputy Warden Rufus Burks to receive the Heroism Award at CMCF. "Officer Ratliff is to be commended for her courageous response on July 7, 2001 by providing CPR to State Inmate Marva Johnson # M4930," Warden Burks said. Officer Ratliff rushed to a medical emergency call at CMCF - II, Building - A, and without hesitation successfully administered CPR to Offender Johnson. "Officer Ratliff displayed great courage in her life-saving act that is seldom witnessed in a correctional setting," Warden Burks stated.

**Donald Mitchell**, Correctional Supervisor, was nominated by Captain Michael White to receive CMCF's Security Employee of the Month service award. Lieutenant Mitchell was commended for being a dedicated and highly effective housing unit administrator. "His loyalty to his job and his leadership has earned him respect from his co-workers," said Captain White. "Donald Mitchell joined the Mississippi Department of Corrections as a correctional officer in 1995. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1996 and to his current rank of lieutenant in 1999. Lieutenant Mitchell is a very capable administrator," Captain White stated.

**Trendia Mason Hudson**, Correctional Officer II, who works in the Reception and Classification Center Control Room, was nominated by her immediate supervisor, Lieutenant Nelda Doucet, to receive MDOC's Correctional Officer of the Month award at CMCF. Officer Hudson was described as being highly dependable, having a good attitude and pleasant to work with. "Officer Hudson plays a very responsible role for security at the Reception and Classification (R&C) Center," said Lieutenant Doucet. "She monitors closed circuit TV and all radio traffic, answers in-coming telephone calls, and controls all movement entering and exiting R&C. Additionally, she ensures that a correct hourly inmate count is taken and reported to control. To coordinate all of these activities simultaneously can be extremely difficult," Lieutenant Doucet added.

**Julette Mason**, Personnel Officer I, was nominated to receive CMCF's Staff Employee of the Month service award by Personnel Officer IV Natalie Holmes. Julette Mason worked in CMCF's Training Department prior to joining the staff of the prison's Personnel Department. "Ms Mason epitomizes all of the desired qualities of a field services employee," said Ms. Holmes, Director of CMCF's Personnel Department." She added, "Her personality exudes with kindness, tolerance and patience." Ms. Holmes noted that "Julette Mason is a '*natural*' for personnel and knows how to properly deal with people problems. She's a pleasure to work with." Ms. Mason was commended for her loyalty to her profession for her outstanding work ethic.

(more)

**Tammie Woolfolk**, Corrections Disciplinary Investigator was nominated to receive CMCF's Extra Effort Award by Pinkie McMurray, Corrections Disciplinary Chairperson. "Ms. Woolfolk goes beyond the call of duty," said Corrections Disciplinary Investigator McMurray. "In addition to fulfilling her assigned investigator duties, Ms. Woolfolk voluntarily serves as secretary on a part-time basis for the Disciplinary Department. She processes the majority of the Rules Violation Reports (RVR) sent to the department." Ms. Woolfolk was commended for her efficiency and her willingness to work extra hours, sometime giving up some of her weekend to ensure that deadlines were met in the processing of RVR's.

**Stephanie Perry**, Correctional Case Manager for CMCF-3, C Building, was nominated to receive the Extra Effort service award by Associate Warden Itica A. Gilmore. Case Manager Perry is assigned to CMCF – III Special Needs Unit. "Case Manager Perry is always willing to perform whatever duties are assigned to her," said Associate Warden Gilmore. "Not only is she dependable, but she also maintains a positive and a professional approach in doing her job." Ms. Perry was commended for her enthusiasm and her effectiveness in dealing with her staff.

**Gwen McClinton**, Associate Warden at CMCF – 1A, Women's Unit was nominated to receive the Extra Effort service award by her supervisor, Acting Warden Eddie Cates. "Associate Warden McClinton has built a reputation for being a highly professional employee. She is extremely energetic and dedicated to her job. She is not only a team player with the agency, but has also developed rapport through her networking efforts with outside entities in recruiting rehabilitative programs," Acting Warden Cates said.

**A Memorial Award**, was presented to honor Correctional Officer Margie Byrd who died suddenly at her home on November 11, 2001. Family members present to receive the memorial plaque were Officer Byrd's husband, Charlie, her mother, Lottie Weathersby and her four children, Alex, Aaron, Marcus, and Lassandra. Those who worked closely with Officer Byrd characterized her as a dedicated employee who loved her job. Officer Byrd was employed at the Central Mississippi correctional Facility from 1999-2001.

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