



# PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Jackson – Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) employee recognition awards this week to five employees at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Mississippi. "I wish not only to salute today's service award recipients, but also to extend my deep appreciation to all of our loyal dedicated men and women within the ranks of security for a job well done," said Commissioner Johnson.

The awards presentation was part of an employee service program instituted by the agency in July 2001 to recognize exemplary employees within the MDOC. The state corrections agency currently has over 3,600 people in its employ statewide.

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

Vivian Frazer	Correctional Officer I	Correctional Officer of the Month
Vonnie Armstrong	Second Watch Shift Commander CMCF III	Security Employee of the Month
Mark Anthony	Correctional Supervisor	Extra Effort Award
Deborah Atkins	Correctional Officer III	Extra Effort Award
Kenard West	Correctional Commander	Extra Effort Award

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The 1:30 p.m. special awards presentation ceremony was held in CMCF III's visitation center. Superintendent Lawrence Kelly announced the names of the service awards winners as MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. The Correctional Officer of the Month and the Security Employee of the Month recipients also received plaques.

"Central Mississippi Correctional Facility plays a key role in the overall mission of MDOC," said prison Superintendent Lawrence Kelly, adding that CMCF serves as the central receiving point for the classification of all new offenders committed to the supervision of MDOC. Kelly stated, "We currently have over 650 highly dedicated employees in our employ at CMCF. All are equally deserving of this coveted recognition. Our employees work as a team in this difficult process. I am extremely proud to join with Commissioner Johnson in presenting these service awards to this outstanding group of employees."

**Vivian Frazer**, Correctional Officer I, was nominated by Correctional Supervisor Nelda Doucet to receive the Correctional Officer of the Month service award at CMCF. Officer Frazer was characterized as being a highly caring member of the security staff who, on short notice, works her days off and is always ready to fill in where she is needed. Correctional Supervisor Nelda Doucet stated, "If called upon, Officer Frazer is always willing to work her days off. She is a team player who remains poised to go the extra mile at a moment's notice. She is a truly dedicated employee. Her positive attitude serves as an inspiration to her co-workers." Officer Frazer, who has maintained a perfect attendance for the past quarter, works in West Classification at CMCF where new offender commitments to MDOC are processed into the system.

**Vonnie Armstrong**, Correctional Commander, was nominated by Interim Warden Anthony C. Compton to receive CMCF's Security Officer of the Month service award. Captain Armstrong was characterized as being punctual, honest, dedicated and a highly effective leader. Deputy Warden Compton stated, "Captain Armstrong is an excellent supervisor." Commander Armstrong was also saluted for his "stand-alone" ability and his willingness to accept difficult assignments without supervision. He was particularly praised for his ability to complete all assigned tasks on schedule. Captain Armstrong was described as a "hard-charger" whose loyalty and dedication to his job served as an inspiration to his co-workers.

**Mark Anthony**, Correctional Supervisor, who works in the on-going accreditation program at CMCF was nominated by CMCF III Interim Warden Anthony C. Compton to receive MDOC's Extra Effort service award at CMCF. Interim Warden Compton described Lieutenant Anthony as being highly organized and a stickler for detail. "Lieutenant Anthony is a valuable asset to CMCF's efforts to gain full America Correctional Association accreditation.," said Interim Warden Compton. He added, "Lieutenant Anthony's untiring dedication to duty and his refreshing work ethic reflects great credit not only to himself but to CMCF as well."

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**Deborah Atkins**, Correctional Officer III, was nominated to receive CMCF's Extra Effort Award by Deputy Warden Eydie Winkel. Officer Atkins was commended foremost for her loyalty to her profession. "The measure of a good employee encompasses many attributes," said Deputy Warden Eydie Winkel. She continued, "Officer Atkins has an outstanding work ethic which embraces duty to her job. She takes pride in her assignments and completes them with enthusiasm." Officer Atkins was commended for her openness to work any post assignment and when called upon in times of need her willingness to work flex shifts, doubles, and extra assignments. For the months of August and September, Officer Atkins has maintained a perfect attendance record

**Kenard West**, Correctional Commander, was nominated to receive CMCF's Extra Effort Award by Deputy Warden Eydie Winkel. "Captain West is an exemplary employee who is highly dependable," said Deputy Warden Winkel. "He personifies the core attributes corrections officials stress are key to prison security. He is a team player and leads by example." Captain West works Second Watch at CMCF's Reception and Classification (R&C) center. He is in charge of overseeing the daily operation and the processing of new commitments received at the Center. He has the difficult responsibility of managing security operations at R&C during Second Watch.



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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](mailto:bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us) or phone him at: (601) 359-5646.