



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) second employee recognition awards this week to five employees at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss. 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. The new program’s first monthly awards were presented in August 2001.

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility employees receiving awards for September 2001 included:

Teresa Burton	Correctional Officer III CMCF III	Correctional Officer of the Month
Albert “Sonny” Edwards	CMCF’s Facilities Maintenance Superintendent	Staff Employee of the Month
Eddie Cates	Deputy Warden of CMCF-IA	Security Employee of the Month
Scott Roberts	Personnel Officer I	Extra Effort Award
Natalie Moore	Supervisor Timekeeping Unit	Extra Effort Award

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The 2:00 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 recipients of the Security, Staff and Correctional Officer of the Month awards also received plaques.

“Central Mississippi Correctional Facility plays a pivotal role in the overall mission of MDOC,” said prison Superintendent Lawrence Kelly, adding that CMCF is the central receiving point for classifying all new offenders coming into the system. Kelly stated, “CMCF has over 650 highly dedicated employees equally deserving of recognition who play key roles in this difficult process. The recipients of these service awards are representative of this outstanding group of employees of whom I am very proud of.”

Teresa Burton, Correctional Officer III, was nominated by Superintendent Lawrence Kelly for Correctional Officer of the Month service award at CMCF. She was commended for her dedication to her job and was recognized for her professionalism and her willingness as a team player to take on any assignment regardless of its difficulty. She was described as an employee who goes beyond the call of duty.

Albert “Sonny” Edwards, Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, was nominated by Superintendent Lawrence Kelly for Staff Employee of the Month service award at CMCF based upon his outstanding dedication to the job. As Facilities Maintenance Superintendent, Edwards has oversight responsibility for the upkeep of CMCF's total plant facility. He is subject to call around the clock. He was described as a “Team Player”, an artisan in his trade, who's always willing to respond to an emergency.

Eddie Cates, Deputy Warden CMCF-IA, was nominated for Security Employee of the Month by Superintendent Lawrence Kelly. Cates, a 19-year veteran with the MDOC, in addition to his current position, has served as Acting Warden at the unit since June of this year. He was described as a tireless administrator who has assumed a tremendous responsibility by shoring dual supervisory roles and exceeded all expectations of the senior executive staff.

Robert Scott and Natalie Moore, Personnel Department staff members, were nominated by Greg Duncan, CMCF Personnel Office Director, for joint recognition for the Extra Effort Award. Both were praised for their dedication and their willingness to take on additional departmental workload assignments, especially at a time when the Personnel Department was operating at an extreme staff shortage due to vacancies caused by medical leave. Both were commended for their loyal support.

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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.