



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ten Central Mississippi Correctional Facility Employees Receive Employee Recognition/Service Awards

Pearl – Commissioner Robert L. Johnson presented the Mississippi Department of Corrections’ (MDOC) employee recognition awards to 10 employees at the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) in Pearl, Mississippi Thursday, May 9. CMCF is the central receiving point for the processing of offenders sentenced to the supervision of MDOC.

“I wish to personally salute each of the service award recipients and also to acknowledge my deep appreciation to all of our loyal, dedicated men and women here at CMCF for a job well done,” said Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. “Your public service role in corrections is highly important to public safety,” said Johnson. “Most people don’t see what we do – that’s why we started the awards recognition program to let everyone know about the hard work our employees are doing and how important your jobs are to public safety.”

Central Mississippi Correctional Facility employees receiving recognition awards for May 2002 included:

Kevin Nunn Jackson, MS	Correctional Officer III CMCF Transportation Department	Correctional Officer of the Month
Smitty Jordan Pearl, MS	ACA Accreditation Manager	Employee of the Month
Jacqueline Williams Jackson, MS	Correctional Officer II CMCF II – Building A	Extra Effort Award
Bobbie Winters Jackson, MS	Correctional Officer II CMCF II	Extra Effort Award
Janice Singleton Jackson, MS	Correctional Officer IV CMCF II	Extra Effort Award
James Holman Terry, MS	Warden – CMCF Chief of Security	Extra Effort Award

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**Central Mississippi Correctional Facility employees
receiving recognition awards for May 2002 continued:**

Johnny Newsome Jackson, MS	Case Manager – CMCF I Classification and Records	Extra Effort Award
Jesse Stritman Brandon, MS	Fire and Safety Inspector CMCF I - B	Extra Effort Award
Smitty Jordan Pearl, MS	ACA Accreditation Manager Superintendent's Office	Extra Effort Award
Forrest "Smitty" Jordan Pearl, MS	ACA Accreditation Superintendent's Office	Extra Effort Award
Vickey Williamson Canton, MS	Correctional Officer I CMCF - II	Extra Effort Award

Commissioner Johnson, joined by CMCF Superintendent Lawrence Kelly, presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, the Staff Employee of the Month and the Correctional Officer of the Month received plaques in appreciation for their dedicated service to the prison.

"During 2001, our Reception and Classification center processed over 7,250 offenders into the prison system," said Superintendent Lawrence Kelly. CMCF began operation in 1987 as a prison and a reception and a classification facility. Today the prison employs over 650 personnel to operate the 3,049-bed facility located on state owned land near Mississippi State Hospital at Whitfield. Superintendent Kelly noted that due to the rapid growth of the prison system in recent years, CMCF's mission has been expanded.

Kevin Nunn, Correctional Officer III, of Jackson, was presented the Correctional Officer of the Month award. Nunn, a six-year veteran with the prison system, was nominated CMCF Warden Jackie Parker. "Nunn is a hard-working dedicated employee who willingly accepts added responsibilities," said Warden Parker. Officer Nunn was commended for his valuable role as interim supervisor over the prison Transportation Department, a position he has held since December 2001. He was further commended for the outstanding management leadership, which according to Warden Parker has greatly enhanced the operation of CMCF's transportation department.

Smitty Jordan, ACA Accreditation Manager, of Pearl, received the Correctional Employee of the Month award. Nominated by CMCF Jackie Parker, Jordan, a four-year veteran with the prison system was characterized as an extremely professional employee. Jordan was commended for his leadership role in helping CMCF III to become the first MDOC facility to attain ACA accreditation in January 2001. "Jordan has a vast knowledge of the ACA process," said Parker. "He has made it much easier in our current effort to attain full of our 3,049 bed complex at CMCF." Jordan was commended for his willingness to provide assistance CMCF's accreditation team whenever called upon to solve complex issues. Jordan was praised for his continuing role of assistance to prison administrators in on-going efforts by officials to meet a targeted October 1 date to reach full ACA accreditation at CMCF.

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Jacqueline Williams, of Jackson, received the Extra Effort award. Williams, a three-year veteran with CMCF serves as a security officer on first watch at CMCF II – Building A, which houses female offenders. Nominated to receive the employee recognition by Lieutenant Sharon Paige. “Officer Williams is the epitome of an ideal security officer,” said Paige. “She works well with her coworkers and she is consistent and fair in her dealings with offenders.” Officer Williams was commended for team spirit and her dedication to her job.

Bobbie Winters, Correctional Officer II of Jackson, was presented CMCF’s Extra Effort Award. Nominated by Correctional Commander Norris Kennedy, Officer Winters a three-year veteran at CMCF was characterized as being totally dedicated to her profession. “Winters is a very out-going person who is vigilant and takes great pride in her role as a security officer,” said Kennedy. “She is extremely professional in her dealings with staff members and inmates alike. Officer Winters was also commended for her courteous manner in dealing with the general public. “We are most fortunate to have an officer with Officer Williams demeanor in our employ,” said Commander Kennedy.

Janice Singleton, Correctional Officer IV, of Jackson, and a four-year veteran with the prison system was presented CMCF’s Extra Effort Award. CMCF Deputy Warden Rufus Burks, who nominated Singleton to receive the staff recognition award, described her as a highly dedicated employee who’s a true public servant and looks upon her profession as her personal call to duty. “Singleton is truly a valuable asset to CMCF’s security,” said Burks. “She is a team-player whose positive attitude promotes camaraderie within the ranks of security,” said Burks. Singleton was commended for her professional manner in communicating with the general public and was saluted for her spirit of cooperation, her enthusiasm, and her work performance.

Other employees nominated by Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Christopher Epps to receive Extra Effort awards in recognition of their valuable contributions to the cause of corrections were:

James Holman of Terry, CMCF Warden – Chief of Security, 21- year veteran

Johnny Newsome, of Jackson, Case Manager – CMCF I Classification, 11-year veteran

Jessie Strittman, of Brandon, Fire and Safety Inspector, 3-year veteran

Smitty Jordan, of Pearl, ACA Accreditation Manager, 4-year veteran

“Following our agency’s announced plans to seek full American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation over a year ago, I formed a traveling audit team of highly knowledgeable veteran employees at MSP. Their job was to assist MDOC’s agency wide efforts to reach full accreditation by September 2002,” said Deputy Commissioner Epps. “Because of this team’s deep loyalty to the corrections’ cause, outstanding progress has been made toward the fruition of our goal to gain agency wide accreditation. The team has conducted five audits at different facilities to ensure that they are in compliance with agency policies and procedures. I’m confident that we will meet our September 2002 goal on schedule.”

The audit team was commended for their invaluable assistance in the ACA effort and was saluted for their many long hours of hard work spent away from their jobs and homes to make the agency’s goal a reality.

Vickey Williamson, Correctional Officer I, of Canton, received an Extra Effort employee recognition award. A 2-year veteran with the prison system, Williamson was nominated by Deputy Warden Rufus Burkes to receive the award. Officer Williamson, who serves in security at CMCF – II, was commended for her positive team player attitude and her willingness to help her fellow officers on the job.

