



PRESS RELEASE

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MDOC Region I Community Services Division Employees Receive Awards

Parchman - The employee recognition awards ceremony for the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Community Services Division Region I was held today at Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss. At the ceremony, three employees were recognized.

Community Services Employees that received awards for January 2002 include:

Willie Sumner	DeSoto County Probation & Parole Office	Field Officer of the Month
James Roberson	Panola County Probation & Parole Office	Award of Excellence
Garth Tindle	Coahoma County Probation & Parole Office	Extra Effort Award

Region I Community Services Director John Brinson announced the names of the award recipients while MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson and Interim Deputy Commissioner of Community Services Lora Cole presented each with a certificate, lapel pin and plaque.

"I am pleased to recognize the hard work that you do each and every day," said Commissioner Johnson. "The quality of work you do can be seen all across the state. At MDOC we provide a valuable service that is a fundamental mission to the citizens of this state – public safety. I encourage each of you to continue your good work."

The MDOC Employee Service Award Program originated in July 2001 to nominate fellow MDOC employees for the following awards:

- Correctional Officer of the Month
- Field Officer of the Month
- Staff Employee of the Month
- Security Employee of the Month

In addition, MDOC established the Heroism Award and Extra Effort Award. The Heroism Award is given to MDOC employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in heroic efforts to either save the life of an individual or prevent other lives from dangerous situations. The Extra Effort Award is designed to recognize employees who go the extra mile or take on additional duties to assist in a project in order to get it done.

(more)

MDOC will hold ceremonies each month to officially recognize outstanding employees at all three state institutions (Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss; Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl, Miss; and South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Miss.) and at the MDOC central office in Jackson.

Community Services Division Service Award Recipients

Willie Sumner, of Nesbit, is a Field Officer III at the DeSoto County Probation & Parole office in Hernando. Sumner was nominated for the Field Officer of the Month award by his supervisor, Clay Baker. Officer Sumner, an MDOC employee for 14 years, was nominated because of his ability to deal with offenders and the public in a professional manner at all times. In addition to his own caseload, Sumner is known to help supervise caseloads of other field officers when someone is out sick.

“He is always ready to fill in or take charge when asked to do so,” said Baker. “He is an outstanding employee, who needs to know just how much the department of corrections appreciates him.”

James Roberson, of Batesville, is a Field Officer I at the Panola County Probation & Parole office in Batesville. Roberson was also nominated by Clay Baker, Field Officer IV. Baker was nominated for the Award of Excellence because of his innovative program to capture Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) inmates who abscond from supervision. Baker started a program with the weekly newspapers in his area to advertise free “want ads” of wanted absconded offenders. To date, seven offenders have been captured as a result of this program.

“Officer Roberson is always eager to assist other officers and law enforcement entities in the apprehension of offenders, making this a safer place to reside,” said Baker. “He is a very capable and eager officer, who takes pride in his chosen profession.”

Garth Tindle, of Clarksdale, is a Field Officer III at the Coahoma County Probation & Parole office in Clarksdale. Tindle was nominated for the Extra Effort Award by Bonnie Land, Correctional Services Aide. Tindle was nominated for the award because of his persistence to always get the job done according to MDOC policies and procedures and he is always on time. Officer Tindle is known for not taking a day off unless he is really sick.

“In his 25 years with MDOC, he has performed all types of duties and has developed a positive attitude with offenders and the public,” said Land. “He is always willing to jump in and help when others are out.”

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