



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Five Central Mississippi Correctional Facility Employees Receive Employee Recognition Awards

Pearl – Seven Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) employees were presented recognition awards today by Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson at a special ceremony held at the prison. The awards event was part of an agency-wide recognition program which is conducted each month to recognize outstanding employees throughout MDOC for outstanding service. “It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to be here today to present recognition awards to these deserving employees at (CMCF), said Commissioner Johnson. “I salute each of you for a job well done. Because of the dedicated service of the men and women here at CMCF along with the untiring work of our employees statewide, we have an agency filled with professional staff that daily protect public safety.” Commissioner Johnson, joined by CMCF Warden James Holman, presented each employee with lapel pins and certificates. Additionally, the correctional employee of the month received a plaque in appreciation for his dedicated service to the prison.

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

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| Burnett Harris Jackson, MS | Correctional Officer II CMCF III | Correctional Officer of the Month |
| Myrtis Hollis Jackson, MS | Radio Operator CMCF I - B | Staff Employee of the Month |
| Michael Humphrey Jackson, MS | Correctional Officer III CMCF – I | Extra Effort Award |
| Leannette Jordan Pearl, MS | Assistant Director - Offender Services – CMCF | Extra Effort Award |
| Maggie Woodard Jackson, MS | Secretary – CMCF R & C | Extra Effort Award |
| Willie Catchings Jackson, MS | Correctional Officer III –CMCF II | Extra Effort Award |
| Anthony Compton Brandon, MS | Correctional Deputy Warden CMCF II | Extra Effort Award |

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“CMCF is the central receiving point for the processing of offenders sentenced to the supervision of MDOC,” said Warden Holman. “Our reception and classification center processed over 7,250 offenders into the prison system during 2001.” He added, “It is a continuous and difficult process. However, thanks to our dedicated staff, we continue to handle our assignment with accuracy and dispatch.” CMCF currently has 660 in its employ to operate the 3,049-bed facility.

Burnette Harris, Correctional Officer II, of Jackson, was presented the Correctional Officer of the Month Award. Nominated by CMCF II Interim Warden Tony Compton, Officer Harris, a six-year veteran with the prison system, was commended for his attention to detail, his unfailing accuracy and for his diligence to see each assignment through to a successful completion. “Officer Harris is dedicated to making the prison environment as secure as possible,” said Warden Compton. “Because of his thoroughness and his attention to detail, he constantly confiscates items that might pose a threat to security. We are most fortunate to have a person with his drive and dedication here at CMCF.”

Myrtis Hollis, Radio Operator, of Jackson, was presented CMCF’s Staff Employee of the Month Award. Nominated by Correctional Commander Jerry Williams, Ms. Hollis, a three-year veteran at CMCF, was characterized as being a valuable link in the internal communications network at the prison. “Communication is critical in a prison’s operation and Ms. Hollis is superb in her highly critical role as radio operator here at CMCF,” said Captain Williams. “Regardless of the emergency, she never gets flustered. We are indeed fortunate to have her as part of CMCF’s team.”

Michael Humphrey, Correctional Officer III, of Jackson, a 7-year veteran with CMCF, received the Extra Effort Award. “Officer Humphrey is a team player,” said Deputy Warden Eydie Winkle who nominated him for the award. “Aside for his management skills, Officer Humphrey’s interpersonal skills win him immediate support from his co-workers. He is an enjoyable person to be around, but equally important he plays an important role in the overall security here at CMCF.” Officer Humphrey currently serves as the chemical officer at CMCF I and has the responsibility of making sure that they are properly distributed. He also has the added responsibility of serving as a Security & Escort Officer at CMCF.

Leanette Jordan, Assistant Director of Offender Services, of Pearl, received CMCF’s Extra Effort Award. Ms. Jordan, a 20-year veteran with the prison system, was nominated by Warden Jackie Parker. “I have had the distinct pleasure to work directly with Ms. Jordan over the past 16 years,” said Warden Parker. “Ms. Jordan’s valuable contributions to the Offender Services’ classification program at CMCF are inestimable. Her untiring manner... early to work and even to work on weekends to ensure assignments are completed in a timely manner make her a very special person.”

Maggie Woodard, Secretary, CMCF II, of Jackson, and a 13-year veteran with Central Mississippi Correctional Facility received the Extra Effort Award. Nominated by Deputy Warden Rufus Burks, Ms. Woodard was saluted as a truly devoted employee. “Ms. Woodard is a people person and she assiduously works to attain perfection, regardless of her assignment,” said Deputy Warden Burks. “Through her untiring efforts to broaden her knowledge about the many complexities of the prison operation, she has become diversified in her skills and abilities. She is a very valuable employee!”

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Willie Catchings, Correctional Officer III, of Jackson, received the Extra Effort Award. Officer Catchings, who is a 7-year veteran with MDOC, is assigned to security at CMCF II's Quick Bed Unit. "Officer Catchings exemplifies the ideal correctional officer in the truest sense," said Deputy Warden Rufus Burks who nominated Catchings for the employee recognition award. "He possess all of the desired qualities of a seasoned security officer. He's vigilant. He's firm but always fair in dealing with the offender population. We are most fortunate to have him on our team here at CMCF." Officer Catchings was also praised for his dedication to his job and for his inspiring team spirit.

Anthony Compton, Correctional Deputy-Warden, of Brandon, was presented MDOC's Extra Effort Award in recognition of his outstanding service at CMCF. Deputy-Warden Compton, who was nominated by Correctional Officer II Burnett Harris to receive the agency's employee recognition award, is a 6-year veteran at CMCF. "Deputy Warden Compton is to be greatly admired," said Officer Harris. "For the past seven months, Deputy-Warden Compton has had the arduous task of serving as Acting Warden for CMCF II while Warden Lora Cole has been assigned to MDOC's central office to serve as Acting Deputy Commissioner of Community Services. He has done an outstanding job of managing the responsibilities of the warden's office at CMCF II during this period." Deputy-Warden Compton was characterized as a highly dedicated person who maintains rapport with his fellow workers. He was also noted for his ability to readily handle challenges and to meet deadlines on schedule.

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.