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Contact: Communications Division, (601) 359-5608, 359-5689
E-mail: GFisher@mdoc.state.ms.us, JCCole@mdoc.state.ms.us

MDOC Officer Who Halted Major Contraband Honored as Top Cop

JACKSON – Thousands of dollars’ worth of contraband was discovered and a large smuggling ring was disrupted in February thanks to Corrections Investigation Division Investigator Matthew Reynolds, Mississippi Department of Correction’s 2016 Top Cop.

Reynolds was one of about 50 Top Cop recipients honored today at the Police Memorial and Appreciation Day in Jackson at the Mississippi Trademart Center.

Reynolds’ work, started from a confidential informant’s tip, led to the arrests of four women, including a correctional officer and relatives of the inmate involved, on charges of conspiracy to introduce contraband.

Prosecution is pending.

The investigation is still ongoing. Therefore, more arrests may be made.

“Without his work ethic, without his determination, there would have been several pieces of this puzzle that he may have missed,” said MDOC Director of Investigations Sean Smith. “Matt is very dependable; he’s timely; he believes in getting the job done. He believes in not finishing until he’s completed the entire task. He’s a person I would definitely like to have covering my six (watching my back).”

Reynolds, who has worked in law enforcement for 14 years, began his career with MDOC in January 2008. He previously worked with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force through the U.S. Marshals Service.

“I’m very honored to receive this award,” Reynolds said at today’s event. “In CID we do everything as a group, as a unit. I want to thank all in our unit who all work together to achieve the same goal within MDOC.”

In addition to recognizing outstanding service, the program also remembered six officers who died in the line of duty in 2015, including Sgt. Iris Smith, a South Mississippi Correctional Institution officer killed in a head-on collision last May.

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Media note: See MDOC social media for video and pictures.