

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MDOC Polygraph Examiners Honored as Top Cops

JACKSON – Two veteran law officers instrumental in improving the Mississippi Department of Corrections’ workforce and strengthening investigative results are this year’s Top Cop Award recipients.

Kevin May and Milton Williams Sr. are MDOC’s first full-time polygraph examiners.

“Their job is one of the most important for the agency and includes aiding in criminal and administrative investigations and helping to weed out candidates who are not good fits for the agency,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “But Officers May and Williams also have exemplary track records, are dedicated to law enforcement, and have a relentless pursuit for justice.”

May and Williams have tested most of the more than 1,000 applicants who have been polygraphed since October 2015, when the agency began using the polygraph in pre-employment screening.

They say polygraph testing has proven its worth in that it has highlighted people who had the wrong intent in seeking employment with the agency. For example, Williams said gang members recruit people to come work for the agency. Then, May said, there are those who fudge on their resume.

“It’s just another tool to assist law enforcement,” May said of the polygraph. “We need to know about a person before MDOC hires and invests in that person.”

Both Williams and May say fear of having to take a polygraph can be a deterrent alone.

The two officers have 50 years of combined law enforcement experience. May, a former Hinds County Sheriff’s deputy, has been with the agency since 2012.

Williams came to work for MDOC in January 2016 after retiring from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

May and Williams received the Top Cop Award during the annual program on Thursday at the Mississippi Trade Mart.

“MDOC appreciates the opportunity to recognize these two law enforcement officers for their service to the agency and the state,” Commissioner Hall said.

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