



High Intensity Team Supervision

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H.I.T.S. Inside Edition

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Greetings from your HITS Commanders! It's already springtime and HITS is on the move in 2016. In this issue, the spotlight is on BJPOT Class 005 who graduated this March from the Basic Juvenile Probation Officer Training course in Forsyth. These officers have taken a huge step in their careers as they prepare to join their HITS teams in offices across the state.

Also in this issue, we talk about the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, honoring the daily sacrifices of our law enforcement officers and shine the spotlight the Decatur HITS Team and their Smiles for Seniors Project in Bainbridge.

We hope you enjoy this issue and as always, thank you for all you do!
If you would like to see your HITS Team spotlighted in our newsletter, please forward all correspondence to HITS Commanders Tiffany Castillo or Richard Grant.



BJPOT Class #005 Graduation



2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day

On March 2, 2016, HITS Officers from across the state had the honor of attending the 2nd Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day held at the Georgia State Capitol.

The Law Enforcement Appreciation Day honors the sacrifices that our law enforcement officers make on a daily basis as well as those who paid the ultimate price to ensure our continued safety in the communities we serve. DJJ Commissioner Avery Niles delivered the program invocation and was recognized by Senate Public Safety Chairman Tyler Harper and several agency heads including:

Georgia Sheriff's Association - President Steve Wilson
 Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police - President George Turner
 Dept. of Public Safety - Commissioner Mark McDonough
 Dept. of Natural Resources - Commissioner Mark Williams and
 DNR Col. Eddie Henderson
 GBI - Director Vernon Keenan
 Dept. of Corrections - Commissioner Homer Bryson
 Board of Pardons and Paroles Exec Director - Christopher Barnett
 Dept. of Community Supervision - Commissioner Michael Nail
 Dept. of Juvenile Justice - Commissioner Avery Niles

Remembering those Georgia LE Officers whom we've lost:

Major Gregory E. "Lem" Barney (**Riverdale PD**)
 Officer Jesse Arthaniel Tarplin (**MARTA PD**)
 Corporal William Matthew Solomon (**Georgia Ports Auth. PD**)
 Officer Kevin Jermaine Toatley (**Dekalb County PD**)
 Deputy Richard Allen Hall (**Chatham Co. Sheriff's Office**)
 Sgt. James Bryan McCrystal (**Georgia Dept. of Corrections**)
 Officer Gregory Dale Mitchell (**Georgia Dept. of Corrections**)
 Sheriff Ladson O'Connor (**Montgomery Co.**)
 Officer Toure Heywood (**Georgia State University PD**)
 Officer Darryl Deon Wallace (**Clayton County PD**)
 Detective Terence Avery Green (**Fulton County PD**)



Smiles for Seniors and Teddy Bear Drive

February is a month known for caring and understanding and for the Decatur County High Intensity Team Supervision Unit (Decatur County HITS), the compassion was spread throughout the community in the development of two big service learning projects: Smiles for Seniors and the Teddy Bear Drive.

Directed at hospitalized seniors and local victims of crime, the Smiles for Seniors Project and Teddy Bear Drive allowed HITS youth to assist and participate with the Decatur County HITS team. The project leaders from the Decatur County HITS Team included: JPPS III Theodore Rogers, JPPS I Kizzie Foster, JPPS I Corey Wimberly, and JPM Meredith Dunaway. The Smiles for Seniors Project involved collecting and donating socks and teddy bears to the senior residents of Bainbridge Memorial Manor and Hospital for Valentine's Day 2016. In addition to the HITS youth and staff, Decatur County

Commissioner Dennis Brinson joined HITS Commander Richard Grant in the donation to all one hundred four residents of the hospital.

Commissioner Brinson encouraged and thanked the HITS youth for participating and urged them to use their experience with HITS as an impetus for change in their lives. As part of the Smiles for Seniors, the including the Georgia Public Defender Office, DFCS, and local law enforcement to distributed to young children to help them cope with the after effects of crimes and violent domestic events. The experiences of Smiles for Seniors and the Teddy Bear Drive provided a great opportunity for DJJ staff and youth alike to experience the joy of giving back to the local

communities. Congratulations again to the entire Decatur County HITS organization for a job well done!



This article previously appeared on DJJ's News and Views page



March Events

- March 2nd** 2ND Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Day – State Capitol
- March 11th** BJPOT Class 005 Graduation
- March 13th** Daylight Savings Begins 🕒
BJPOT Class 006 Begins
- March 17th** St. Patrick's Day
- March 20th** 1st Day of Spring
- March 24th** BJPOT Class 005 Swearing In
- March 27th** Easter

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th on the official birthday of the US Army K9 Corps. On this day, we honor our current Veteran K9's and remember past K9 Officers including K9 Officer Zane from the Conyers Police Department and K9 Officer Baston from the Savannah State Police Department.



Final Thoughts

“It is our purpose and passion that drives us on a daily basis to help shape the lives of young people.

It is our duty as leaders to provide you with the training, procedures, resources and strong support to help you make a positive impact in the lives of our youth. We will encounter challenges and tough decisions on a daily basis. During those tough times, collaborate with your peers and supervisors to develop the appropriate decisions. We will do what we need to do for the best interest of the youth in the least restrictive environment.”

We are DJJ STRONG! “One Team, One Mission.”

Catina Martin-Fenner

Director of Operations
Division of Community Services

