



Harris County Sheriff's Office

Awards in Excellence

Certified Peace Officer Personnel

Field Training Officer of the Year

Consideration is given in recognition of training at an exceptional level through courageous action or lifesaving efforts, outstanding investigative initiative and knowledge, or the creation of a program or service that significantly affects training for the betterment of the agency or community in a significant manner. Courageous or lifesaving actions being considered must have occurred while actively training a Probationary Patrol Deputy, Temporary Detention Officer, Probationary Communications Officer, or Communications Radio Trainee. The recipient must have been recognized as a Field Training Officer, Detention Training Officer or Communications Training Officer and actively training in the previous calendar year.

Deputy of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, outstanding investigative ability and expertise, or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must have served at the rank of certified Deputy in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Detective of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of initiative, expertise, and professionalism while conducting criminal investigations. Actions for consideration may include the planning or implementation of operations resulting in significant impact to the community as well as the demonstration of exceptional investigative skills and self-initiative that led to significant arrests, seizures, and the solving of criminal cases. These actions must have occurred in the previous calendar year and the recipient must have held the rank of Detective in the course of these actions.

Supervisor of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of outstanding leadership ability through their involvement in daily operations, concern for the welfare of other employees, and the display of operational knowledge and command ability during critical scenes & situations. Actions of exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner are also considered. The recipient must have served at the rank of certified Sergeant, Lieutenant, or Captain in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Rookie of the Year

Consideration is given for demonstrating exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, outstanding investigative ability, and expertise, or initiative in creating a program or system that positively affects the agency or community significantly. The recipient must have served at the rank of Certified Deputy during these actions, which must have occurred within the first two (2) years of their service as a Certified Deputy with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Detention Officer Personnel

Detention Officer of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, outstanding investigative ability and expertise, or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must have served at the rank of Detention Officer in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Rookie Detention Officer of the Year

Consideration is given for demonstrating exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, or initiative in creating a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must have served at the rank of Detention Officer during these actions, which must have occurred within the first two (2) years of their service as a Detention Officer with the Harris County Sheriff's Office.

Detention Supervisor of the Year

Consideration is given for demonstrating outstanding leadership ability through their involvement in daily operations, concern for the welfare of other employees, and the display of operational knowledge and command ability during critical scenes & situations. Actions of exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, or initiative in creating a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner are also considered. The recipient must have served at the rank of Detention Officer Sergeant, Detention Officer Lieutenant, or Officer Detention Captain in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Reserve Personnel

Reserve Deputy of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of exceptional courage, a lifesaving effort, outstanding investigative ability and expertise, or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must have served as a certified Reserve Deputy, Reserve Sergeant, Reserve Lieutenant, or Reserve Captain in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Classified Awards

Joseph Trapolino Award

The Joseph Trapolino Mental Health Professional of the Year Award recognizes an individual who displays exceptional skill and ability in the de-escalation of an incident/s involving mental health crisis, made significant contributions to addressing mental health concerns, or has shown initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in relation to mental health services. The individual displayed compassion and dedication to addressing concerns related to mental health.

Professional Staff Employee of the Year

Consideration is given to specialized technical or professional staff for the demonstration of exceptional skill in a job function or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The functions recognized include support through expertise in their field or outstanding performance. Typical examples of professional staff include latent print examiner, crime analyst, media specialist, web application developer, network technician, and IT analyst. The recipient must be a non-certified employee and have served in their role in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Support Staff

Support Service Employee of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of exceptional skill in a job function or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must be a non-certified employee serving in the position of Executive, Paralegal, Administrative Coordinator/Assistant, Clerk, or Records Specialist and have served in that capacity in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Supervisor of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of outstanding leadership ability through their involvement in daily operations, concern for the welfare of other employees, and the display of operational knowledge. Initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner is also considered. The recipient must be a non-certified employee and have served at the level of Director, Manager, Supervisor or Telecommunications Supervisor in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Telecommunications Officer of the Year

Consideration is given for the demonstration of exceptional commitment to public safety, exemplary handling of a specific incident, or initiative in the creation of a program or system that positively affects the agency or community in a significant manner. The recipient must have served as a Telecommunications Officer in the course of these actions in the previous calendar year.

Specialized Awards – Certified or Civilian

Sandeep Dhaliwal Community Impact of the Year Award

The Sandeep Dhaliwal Community Service Award recognizes any member of the agency, regardless of classification, rank, or title, who has acted beyond their normal law enforcement or agency duties to make a lasting or meaningful contribution to the lives of community residents at the international, regional, or local level. The contributions of the recipient by organizing and volunteering for charitable events or taking impactful action in times of crisis or emergency disaster show compassion and a desire to improve the state of the community. Through their actions and efforts, the recipient inspires others to become stronger role models and build relationships with the public. All HCSO personnel are eligible for consideration regardless of assignment or status.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Consideration is given to an employee or retiree, regardless of classification, rank, or title, who has consistently maintained high service standards throughout their career and displayed exceptional dedication and diligence in their efforts to impact the agency and community positively. Meritorious actions throughout their career and length of service are also considered. Retired nominees must have retired in the last year and all nominees must have previously served for a minimum of twenty (20) years with the HCSO.

Civilian Impact Award

The Civilian Impact Award recognizes a civilian who has shown significant devotion and commitment to the HCSO and public safety. Consideration is given to any non-HCSO individual who has significantly impacted the HCSO through actions that show exceptional initiative, effort, or courage in support of law enforcement and the safety of the community performed without expectation of personal gain.