

### Senior Communications Officer Rodney DeBerry

Senior Communications Officer (SCO) Rodney Deberry is one of the most decorated members of the Richmond Department of Emergency Communications and well deserved. In the 10 years Rodney has been employed by the department he has earned the department's highest award given to any Communications Officer (CO), twice.

Rodney has not sat idle since receiving the awards, each day he sets an example of what we ask our CO's to be. He arrives for duty on time and with a positive attitude. He has consistently met or exceeded the monthly standards set by the department. He has also trained multiple communications officers prior to taking the role as a Certified Training Officer. The responsibility of guiding newly hired Communications Officers was not taken lightly as he continues to train to this day.

On Wednesday July 11th , CO Deberry started his day off by training CO Scott for 8 hours. When training ended he began to operate the channel independently and complete his daily observation report. At 1525 the DEC became inundated with calls of



random gunfire in the 1300-blk of Coalter St. Then the call none of us enjoy, the call for a person shot. First responders arrived on scene to find two (2) people shot and one fatally. The inbound calls did not stop there; citizens were now calling with the location of the suspect. CO Deberry was able to relay inbound call information to the units on scene. It

was determined that the potential suspect had barricaded himself in a residence and was armed. A high stress event has now escalated and SWAT and Negotiation teams needed to be called out. The number of responding units increased even more as a 3rd victim arrived at MCV and assigned units were diverted from Coalter St. to the hospital. With multiple precincts, multiple suspects and multiple victims there was a chance for multiple errors. This was not the case; he instead relied on the team around him to assist dispatching unrelated calls. He understands that we work as a team and one headset can't do it all.