

**ECO Shannon Purnell**

Emergency Communications Officer (ECO) Shannon Purnell has been employed with the Department of Emergency Communications since September 21, 2015. She is now Bravo Platoon's third most senior Emergency Communications Officer. Taking the mantle as a "senior employee", ECO Purnell opted to further her skillset by training in Teletype. Being a studious and quick learner, ECO Purnell was able to undertake the challenge within two (2) weeks as she was released to operate the teletype position without direct supervision on July 18, 2019.

During the month of July, ECO Purnell furthered her education by completing the FEMA courses "Employee Course 2019" and "Diversity Awareness". On July 16, 2019, ECO Purnell also attended an eight (8) hour Incident Command System and Emergency Operations Center course hosted by Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Along with dedicating many hours towards her continued education, she still managed to assist the department's staffing shortage by doing approximately 43 hours of overtime.

ECO Purnell also served as part of a three (3) person committee who took initiative to collect funds, create a basket, and deliver them to Virginia Beach Commu-



nifications Officers after the active shooter incident in their jurisdiction. On July 9, 2019, she also worked as part of a team to assist a stranded co-worker with jumpstarting their car battery when their vehicle would not start. She even followed the employee the majority of the way home to ensure their safe travels.

ECO Purnell has a heart for helping others during their time of need. She is willing to step in when the need arises. She continues to show growth within her professional career. For these reasons, I recommend ECO Purnell for Emergency Communications of the Month for July 2019.