

Utah County Employee of the Month, October 2014

Jason Newman - Control Board Operator

Sheriffs Office

I would like to nominate CBO Jason Newman for Utah County Employee of the month. Jason is the Control Board Operator for the Secure Housing Unit at the Utah County Jail. He is responsible for being the immediate lifeline for the housing Deputies that are working in the SHU. This is extremely important as the SHU houses those inmates who can't be housed with anyone else. Many of these inmates are "High Risk" inmates. This is due to many factors such as mental illness, fighting, gang activity, especially heinous crimes, and death threats to law enforcement/public officials/public to name a few.

Jason is extremely good at his job. When an officer goes into the SHU to do a security check, move an inmate or interact in any way with the inmates housed there he is constantly watching the Deputy. Because of this Deputies working in the SHU with Jason do not need to wait on doors being opened or unlocked as he is always one step ahead of them. When the SHU first opened Jason put forward several helpful suggestions that have now been implemented to increase Deputy safety and decrease the liability that Utah County faces. Among these suggestions were mirrored tint for the control room windows and a radio base unit for the control room. These two things have proved invaluable during incidents that have occurred in the SHU since it has opened.

Jason takes his job seriously and knows that the housing Deputy is relying on him to watch his back while out in the unit. Because of this Jason can normally tell you when something is going to happen with a certain inmate based off of his behavior with the housing Deputy and he will call backup before incidents begin or at the exact same time as they begin. A perfect example of this is a day when I was delivering supplies to the control room and Jason said, "Hey you might want to stay here for a few minutes". At this time the housing Deputy was moving an inmate back to his cell from the shower. As the inmate and Deputy walked across the unit towards the inmate's cell Jason said, "You might want to get in there right now". No sooner had he finished telling me this, than the inmate turned and swung on the housing Deputy. Due to Jason's awareness of the unit he is the CBO for, and how closely he watches the housing Deputies under his care I was able to be there within seconds of this assault starting on the housing Deputy. This enabled us to end the assault immediately.

Jason also has over a decade of experience as a CBO. This allows him to help when less-experienced Deputies come into the SHU. He can tell them how each of the inmates typically will react and behave. He also helps less-experienced Deputies learn the 'right-way' to do things in the SHU so that they and the inmates are safe. Because of Jason's experience level, professionalism and his constant focus on the housing Deputy while they are in the unit he truly is the Deputies' lifeline while out in the unit dealing with High Risk inmates.

It is for these and many other reasons that I nominate CBO Jason Newman for Utah County Employee of the month.

Nominated by Deputy E. Irvine