

Utah County Employee of the Month, April 2014
Kevin Watson - Corrections Specialist II
Sheriffs Office, Jail Housing

I would like to nominate Deputy Kevin Watson for employee of the month. Watson is affectionately known as "papa-bear". He quietly does so very many things that make the Corrections Bureau and the Utah County Sheriff's Office great. He is not one to look for awards, or attention for the work he does. For example, this week will mark the finish of an assault-readiness training that every crew did during their graveyard shifts over the past month. This training is scenario based, and has allowed jail staff to actually practice their defensive tactics on a live 'aggressor'. True to form he volunteered to be in the 'aggressor suit' and take the first round of kicks, punches to the head and many other strikes to his entire body.

Deputy Watson has served for many years on the Detention Response Team and is responsible for many of their training's as well. When the other members of the team or any deputy needs an answer to a question, quiet often Kevin is the resource turned to. He uses his years of experience in a patient and incredibly effective manner to help those around him become better officers, and yet still maintain a focus on the importance of family and what really matters in life. Quite often you will hear him remind other officers that it's okay to say no to overtime, and to go home and take care of mama and the kids.

Deputy Watson is the epitome of what you want in an officer coming to your aid when everything has gone wrong. He is competent with every less-lethal weapons system that DRT has at their disposal and has been instrumental in getting training for the DRT team to be a more effective unit. Kevin leads from the front and will never ask another deputy to do something that he isn't willing to do himself or has not done in the past. Kevin routinely displays pro-active thinking in his day to day activities. For example on an almost daily basis he will walk the roof of the security center to collect anything thrown onto the roofs in an attempt to get them into the recreation yards from the outside. The last time he did this he discovered bits of metal wire that could be fashioned into weapons if they had fallen into a recreation yard.

It is for these and many other reasons that I nominate Deputy Kevin Watson for Utah County Employee of the Month.

Deputy E. Irvine