

Utah County Employee of the Month for October, 2016 - Traci Wilcock
Corrections Specialist II
Utah County Sheriff's Office

I have known and worked with Deputy Traci Wilcock, as her coworker in the corrections department for nearly 8 years. For the following reasons I am nominating her for employee of the month for Utah County.

Traci will be the first to downplay such a commendation, but her efforts definitely deserve to be recognized as she is a great example to her coworkers as a positive, hardworking employee. Throughout her career she has been known by all as a model of hard work and consistency. As her current supervisor, I am grateful to have someone who cares about doing the job the right way, each and every day. Traci shows each day a unique ability to make choices that are reasonable and consistent.

In addition to her high level of consistency, Deputy Wilcock makes a point to go the extra mile in every aspect of her job. For instance, in the jail we have a system to record security checks. Deputy Wilcock is assigned to the area of the jail where she is required to perform more security checks on average than any other area. Each day she is responsible for managing inmates on suicide watch, partial observation, and intake status. Rather than doing the minimum number of required checks, she constantly performs extra checks to make sure the inmates she manages have much more than the required amount of supervision.

Another positive aspect of her performance is in her ability and willingness to work overtime, some of which is not convenient to work. She consistently works 30-40 hours of overtime each pay period which helps the jail alleviate staffing issues from day to day.

Working in the jail can be very challenging and potentially dangerous. Several weeks ago, Deputy Wilcock was assaulted by a mentally ill inmate. This inmate is considerably larger than Deputy Wilcock making the situation extremely dangerous. Deputy Wilcock was able to use her skills, training, and awareness to physically resist the inmate's efforts to cause harm to her. She was able to call for backup and handle the situation in such a way as to keep both herself and the inmate free from serious injury.

Most will never be able to contemplate the unique challenges that officers and deputies face each day; like being the recipients of verbal and physical assaults or caring for severely mentally ill individuals. But having positive, hardworking, and reasonable people like Deputy Wilcock decreases the probability for problems and increases the amount of overall good we can do in the law enforcement profession.

For this reason, and many others not mentioned, I nominate Deputy Traci Wilcock for the employee of the month award.

-Sgt. Chris Sainsbury

Photo courtesy of Mike Stansfield