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Sergeant Cooke Receives Excellence & Commitment in State Service Award

Sergeant Robert G. Cooke, an employee at Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI), has been selected as a recipient of the Delaware Award for Excellence and Commitment in State Service. This honor is an annual statewide award given to five employees, or groups of employees, who exemplify the highest standards of excellence and commitment in state service.

With the Department of Correction for three and a half years, Sergeant Cooke has been promoted rather quickly through the ranks from Correctional Officer to Corporal and then to Sergeant. He has had perfect attendance for over three years and recently took on a six-month assignment, with more responsibility, as a floor supervisor at HRYCI, a position typically filled by a Lieutenant.

Beyond the standard duties for a Correctional Sergeant, Sergeant Cooke volunteered for and completed the Foundation Skills for Trainers Course, which qualified him to teach Emergency Preparedness Training throughout the State. He conducts classes for weeks at a time on the 8 to 4 shift, even though it takes him from his regularly scheduled and preferred 4 to 12 shift. It is just one example of his selflessness in getting the job done and doing what he can to help his institution and the Department meet its goals.

"He takes every aspect of his job very seriously, addressing everything in a timely manner and leaving nothing to be resolved at a later point in time," HRYCI Warden Phil Morgan said of Sergeant Cooke. "His professional attitude and the respect that he conveys towards others is both admired and appreciated. More importantly, Sergeant Cooke enjoys what he does and displays this to all with his daily efforts."

"Sergeant Cooke is an outstanding Correctional Officer whose enthusiasm for his job is influencing our younger officers in a positive way and impressing our experienced staff," stated DOC Commissioner Carl Danberg.

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