

## **MPD Major Awards 2016**

### **OFFICER OF THE YEAR – ALAN EDWARDS**

This Officer was nominated by his supervisors. Officer Edwards is known for his outstanding work ethic and reliability. He consistently demonstrates an excellent attitude towards the public and co-workers. He is always willing to help someone in need and complete whatever task that is assigned. This officer is currently assigned to the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force, Richland County Division. In 2016, this Officer closed more than 145 fugitive cases and assisted other TFOs on more than 300 additional arrests. He works tirelessly conducting interviews, surveillance, and locating fugitives; many reaching other states. Officer Edwards was recently awarded the Wayne Leon Task Force Officer of the year for the Northern District of Ohio. He has been with the Mansfield Division of Police for 10 years and has been assigned to the U.S. Marshals Task Force since 2010. During 2016 he has upheld our core values of Honesty, Integrity, Professionalism, Respect and Self Discipline. He is an immense asset to the Mansfield Division of Police. I am proud to announce that the 2016 Officer of the Year is Officer Alan Edwards.

### **SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR – SGT. STEVE BLUST**

This supervisor has instilled a sense of professionalism into his Unit and has been instrumental in the day to day operations. He was the acting commander for the Special Investigative Unit for six months which added to his responsibilities as a supervisor. He accepted the challenge without complaint and rose to the occasion. Over the past year, this supervisor has been tasked with overseeing the training of new personnel and is always willing to assist without hesitation. He consistently coordinates operations in such a manner as to produce a total team effort with a high volume of work. The Division can always count on his sound judgments and decisions on daily operations. Sgt. Blust has made a significant impact within his unit and has relayed the importance of professionalism and dedication to combating the drug epidemic we currently face. He has been with the Mansfield Division of Police for 24 years and assigned to the METRICH Enforcement Unit since 2004. I am proud to announce that the 2016 Supervisor of the year is Sgt. Steve Blust.

### **DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR – DET. RICH MILLER**

This Detective was nominated by his supervisors. Since January, Detective Miller has been assigned 157 cases; both felony and misdemeanors for follow up. He is well organized and is able to maintain the high case load he receives. He completes his tasks without hesitation and is always willing to lend a helping hand to his fellow detectives and patrol officers. Detective Miller has built great relationships with the Juvenile court, the Richland County Prosecutors Office, and many other outside agencies. These relationships not only benefit his job but the Division as a whole. He

was instrumental in the NOVCC “Reducing Violent Crimes Grant Sweeps” during the summer months which resulted in a reduction of gun violence in the city during that time period. This detective’s hard work resulted in a double murder conviction in the Myron Webb homicide as well as an arrest of a suspect in the murder of Caliel Valdry in which the suspect recently entered into a plea agreement and was sentenced to 15 years to life. He has been a member of the Mansfield Division of police for 25 years and is the commander of the ASORT/SWAT team as well as a member of the Honor Guard. I am proud to announce that the 2016 Detective of the Year is Detective Rich Miller.

### **CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR – JERRY BOTDORF**

This employee was nominated by his Supervisors within the Division. His commitment to the Division is outstanding. Supervisor Botdorf works with everyone in the Division and displays a professional attitude towards his co-workers, subordinates, and the public. He constantly adjusts his schedule and works long hours to assist with staffing deficiencies, which does not go unnoticed by his coworkers and supervisors. His work ethic is above reproach and he continually strives to make improvements in the services that his Section provides. Supervisor Botdorf views his Section as a TEAM which is one of his core beliefs and always strives to improve the morale of his subordinates. He was instrumental in the implementation of the Next Gen 911 system which was a major project for the Division. He has been a member of the Mansfield Division of Police for 3 years and currently is the Operations Supervisor of the Public Service Communication Center. He also serves as a Reserve Officer and a firearms instructor for the Division. It is with great pleasure that I announce that the 2016 Civilian of the Year is Jerry Botdorf.

## **TOP COPS**

### **OFFICER TRAVIS STANTZ-**

This officer has been a Mansfield Police Officer for 2 years. During this short time on the Department, this officer has continually exhibited and maintained a high level of police work, often exceeding standard expectations of those with so little time on the job. This officer is proactive and often seeks out additional assignments in an effort to positively impact crime in our community, exemplifying the essence of the Department's Community Policing philosophy. His positive attitude and work ethic is apparent in his police work as he frequently extends an investigation past the point where most would give up, often resulting in an arrest.

An example of this would be a recent robbery case involving two suspects who were targeting elderly persons. This officer worked with two other officers, a Dispatcher, and by using social media; were able to develop two suspects and eventually obtain convictions on both. This officer has made countless drug arrests from information he has obtained through his rapport with individuals in the community, in part because of his relaxed and reassuring communication skills. He handles high stress situations with great confidence, as he strives to become knowledgeable in all aspects of his job.

These are just a few of the examples of the professionalism, courage, and commitment; this young officer has made to our community. I am proud to announce Officer Travis Stantz as one of the Departments "Top Cops" of 2016.

### **OFFICER JOSEPH GLADDEN –**

This next officer came to the Mansfield Police Department after serving a few years with another local agency. During his two years here, he has continually displayed a positive attitude and work ethic, while meeting the demands of proudly serving the citizens of Mansfield. This officer has displayed a proactive approach to his job and has worked to develop community contacts in an effort to actively enforce crime in those areas.

This officer is the epitome of a "team player" as he gladly assists other officers on calls, often bringing his prior experience as a law enforcement officer to a shift of younger, inexperienced officers. He led his shift in many statistical categories in 2016 and recovered over \$86,000 in stolen property. His prior experience serving as a drug task force officer has allowed him to effectively identify suspicious circumstances,

resulting in the seizure of numerous narcotics; including one incident where 124.5 grams of Heroin was seized.

This officer's overall conduct, work ethic and optimistic attitude exemplify the professionalism and commitment the Mansfield Police Department expects from all its officers. I am proud to announce Officer Joseph Gladden as one of the Department's "Top Cops" of 2016.

### **Sgt. JOE SOEHNLEN –**

This officer has been with the Mansfield Police Department for over 11 years and was recently promoted to Sergeant. He is an officer who has shown initiative and commitment to this community. He is known to mentor other officers and serves as a Field Training Officer, Honor Guard member, and SWAT officer. He believes in serving the community and frequently volunteers to represent the Mansfield Police Department during public events, where he eagerly shares his law enforcement knowledge with others.

This officer has always displayed a positive attitude and often looks for ways to improve himself as a law enforcement officer through training opportunities. He recently completed an intense week long, drug recognition course in an effort to improve his street patrol aptitude.

This officer is an asset to the Mansfield Police Department and characterizes the professionalism and attitude we expect of all our officers. I am proud to announce Current Sergeant Joe Soehnlén as one of the Department's "Top Cops" of 2016.

### **SGT. STEVE BRANE-**

This supervisor has been a Sergeant for a few years and has worked hard to make the often difficult transition from officer to supervisor. He is efficient and organized, something newer supervisors can find challenging at times. This supervisor works to manage officers in a fair manner while pitching in to assist with calls. He has taken his position earnestly, as he has often counseled many of the newer inexperienced patrol officers to help ensure their success.

In the spring of 2016 as 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift supervisors were plagued with injury leaves, resulting in unmanageable staffing levels, this sergeant transferred from his normal shift to 2<sup>nd</sup> shift without complaint. He worked diligently to manage the shift of inexperienced officers while juggling his personal life to meet the demands of often working as a solo supervisor, with little to no time off.

This sergeant communicates well with his supervisors, while performing his daily duties with little supervision. I am proud to announce Sergeant Stephen Brane as one of the Department's "Top Cops" of 2016.

#### **Lt. KENNETH CARROLL-**

This supervisor was recently promoted to Lieutenant and exemplifies a work ethic, second to none. He promotes a positive attitude and is not one to complain, regardless of the workload set in front of him. This supervisor is one to offer assistance to any officer, regardless of the project and personifies the word, "teamwork".

In 2016, while overseeing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift Detective Section, this supervisor handled numerous cases including a couple of high profile death cases. He was one of the detectives to work diligently on the Patsy Hudson "Missing Person/Murder" Case and was instrumental in obtaining crucial information from the two suspects which resulted in the recovery of most of Ms. Hudson's remains. One of the suspects was convicted at trial late last year, while the other awaits his time before the court. He was able to successfully investigate and charge a suspect in the "Cedric Daniels" murder case which resulted in another conviction at trial.

He has served the Department in a capacity of roles throughout his career including: Field Training Officer, SWAT member, Taser Instructor, Less Lethal Chemical Munitions Instructor, and OC Pepper Spray Instructor; just to name a few. I am proud to announce current Lieutenant Ken Carroll as one of the Department's "Top Cops" of 2016.