

Saluting Employees

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CID, American Correctional Association recognize Correctional Officer Mosley for valor in face of danger

Ariel Mosley had been a correctional officer at the Michael Unit for less than seven months on April 12, 2015 when a call came over the radio: an officer was being assaulted by an aggressive offender. Without hesitation, and with no regard for her own safety, Officer Mosley ran to the aid of Officer Anishakia Pope. The offender was holding Officer Pope by the neck and torso, attempting to throw her over the second-story railing.

As the first to arrive on the scene, Officer Mosley's actions quite possibly saved Officer Pope's life. Using her carry-on-person chemical agent, Mosley was able to subdue the offender long enough for Officer Pope to get away. When the offender intensified his attack, Mosley again used her COP and was able to get Officer Pope and herself to safety. Recounting the incident, Officer Mosley said, "My main goal was just to get the officer away from the situation."

In December, Officer Mosley was recognized during a Sergeant's Academy Graduation ceremony in Huntsville where Director of



Correctional Officer Ariel Mosley (center left) received the Correctional Institutions Division's first Award for Valor in a December ceremony held in Huntsville. Pictured with CID Director Bill Stephens (far left) are Michael Unit Warden Eddie Baker (center right) and CID Region II Director Kelvin Scott (far right).

TDCJ's Correctional Institutions Division Bill Stephens presented her as the first recipient of CID's new Award for Valor. Valor, defined as the absence of indecision even in the face of extreme danger, is exemplified by Officer Mosley's actions. In his presentation, CID Director Stephens praised Officer Mosley, saying "She demonstrated fierce commitment to her fellow officer by defend-

ing and protecting her until staff arrived and gained control of the situation. Her bravery is to be commended."

As an additional honor, Officer Mosley attended the American Correctional Association's Winter Conference in January in New Orleans where she was presented the 2016 ACA Medal of Valor.

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The CID's Award for Valor and Award for Commendation are presented to correctional officers whose actions demonstrate positive employee behavior and outstanding job performance. The award program is part of an initiative to acknowledge correctional officers who personify the agency's core values of integrity, courage, commitment and perseverance. CID Deputy Director of Support Operations Lorie Davis explains, "We want the officers to know that we recognize the behavior we're asking them to emulate. So many of our officers go above and beyond every day. When they're honored in front of their peers, it's a great motivator for the recipient and for everyone who works on the unit."

In addition to these two awards, CID has implemented a recognition program for officers who assume duties beyond those normally assigned. Employees who volunteer and meet all training and eligibility requirements

to become a field training officer, mentor, instructor, qualified interpreter, disciplinary hearing officer, prospector, Honor Guard member or a Crisis Response Intervention Support Program (CRISP) team member will be presented with a recognition rocker to be worn on their uniform.

Ms. Davis explains the purpose behind the new initiative, "These officers have made a pledge to TDCJ by joining these distinguished groups and we want to recognize that. It's a way for the agency to publicly say 'Thank you' and call attention to their commitment to serve the community and the state." ●