WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Personnel Honored at Annual Dinner

Eleven Sheriff's Office personnel, including the Employees of the Year, were recognized at the annual Washington County Sheriff's Office Christmas Dinner held on December 13, 2013, at the Southwest Virginia 4-H Center.

The Employees of the Year for 2013 are Sheriff's Detectives Chris Hazelwood and Kevin Widener. Detective Hazelwood is an 18 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office who began his career in 1995 as a patrol deputy. In 2000 he was promoted to the Criminal Investigations Division as a Detective, and in 2003 he was transferred to the Narcotics/Vice Unit and remains in that capacity.

Detective Kevin Widener joined the Sheriff's Office in 1999 and was assigned to the Patrol Division as a patrol deputy. In 2000, he was transferred to the Traffic Enforcement Division, and in 2003, with the dramatic increase in methamphetamine labs in the county, was promoted to the Criminal Investigations Division and became the second Detective assigned to the Narcotics/Vice Unit.

"Detective Hazelwood's and Detective Widener's recognition as the 2013 Employees of the Year are well deserved," stated Sheriff Newman. "Both men are steady performers who give our Sheriff's Office 100% every day."

Recognized at the annual dinner were the recipients of the Top Gun Awards for both firearms instructor and deputy sheriff. Detective Billy Nichols was the Top Gun Firearms Instructor

and Deputy Joshua Edmiston took home honors as the Top Gun Deputy. These awards are based on the highest total score attained during the annual firearms recertification.

Other awards that were presented at the dinner included:

Child Occupant Protection -- Lt. Greg Hogston
Traffic Enforcement -- Sgt. Jason Shepherd
Adult Occupant Protection -- Deputy Erik Hinchey
DUI Enforcement -- Deputy Lance Campbell and Deputy Lucas Shelley
Criminal Warrants -- Deputy Bobby Justus
Drug Interdiction -- Sgt. Noah Horn

The dinner was attended by 140 members of the Sheriff's Office and their families.