The 2016 Security Officers of the Year
This year’s winners
Jamon Barfield & Olalekan “Felix” Olatundun

Each year all Securitas divisions in North America recognize Security Officers of the Year for Heroism and Performance. In acknowledgement of their extraordinary achievements, Division Management invites the winners for an expense paid trip to the New York area. The 2016 winners traveled to the Securitas Eastern Operations Center in Parsippany, NJ where they were honored at a presentation and luncheon. Winners received a commemorative recognition plaque and a $5,000 cash award. They were also treated to dinner and a private tour of New York City.

EOC employees turned out in force to witness the presentation and applaud the winners. This year’s winners are a credit to their regions and the company. Jamon Barfield is a role model and mentor to his fellow officers. Felix Olatundun overcame adversity and had his life put at risk in performance of his duties. Both are to be commended for their dedication. Chief Operating Officer Bill Barthelemy presided over the presentation ceremony, but when it came time to introduce the Officers and their accomplishments, he turned over the honors to each winner’s Branch Manager.

Jamon Barfield
Security Officer of the Year for Performance

This award recognizes a security officer who has consistently provided excellent service and outstanding performance. This year’s award winner is Jamon Barfield of the Silicon Valley branch of the Healthcare Region. His professionalism and willingness to lead were immediately evident in his nomination. He is assigned to a healthcare client site in a high crime area where his work brings him into contact with many different types of people—patients, visitors and staff—as well as situations that can be unpredictable. His training in nonviolent crisis intervention has helped him to manage situations when individuals have become aggressive. His communication skills and forthright manner have helped to de-escalate situations and ensure the safety of those around him.

Branch Manager Paul Simpson (left) described Security Officer of the Year for Performance Jamon Barfield as “an excellent Officer and a mentor to others.”
Because of the constant flow of people in and out of the job site, Barfield needs to be vigilant and quickly assess the environment for anything unusual. Last July, he was named Officer of the Month because he noticed an individual who seemed out of place. His quick thinking and calm intervention help lead to the apprehension of a person who turned out to be in possession of a stolen vehicle.

**Setting the Example**

It’s not only his ability to manage difficult situations that stand out. Officer Barfield has distinguished himself by the quality of his security reports. His attention to detail leads him to conduct thorough investigations and write comprehensive reports. In this area he is also a leader. Because he understands the importance and value of a well-written report, he is not only methodical in his own reporting, he also helps others improve theirs. This quality immediately impressed Branch Manager Paul Simpson, who described him as “an excellent officer and a mentor to others.” In addition to providing writing guidance to his fellow officers, Barfield also coaches them as to how to interact with difficult patients. He is a team player and wants others to succeed in their jobs as well.

In the three years he’s been with Securitas, Barfield has proven himself to be a leader and example to others. His positive attitude and customer focus make him a role model for others. He has a thorough knowledge of the large medical complex where he is posted and his friendly manner helps visitors who come into contact with him feel that the hospital is supportive. He is an exemplary ambassador for both the client and Securitas.

Being named Security Officer of the Year for Performance isn’t Barfield’s only recent achievement. He’s also recently married and has been promoted to Lead Officer. “Jamon has everything you could want in an Officer,” said his Branch Manager, Paul Simpson. “He’s Vigilant—always looking to see if someone or something is out of place. He’s dedicated—almost never calls off. He writes excellent reports and he’s quick to help others.” The respect and affection is mutual. Barfield thanked his wife Melissa for her unwavering support and further thanked Simpson and the rest of the San Leandro branch for “being like family.” Officer Barfield’s skills and professionalism clearly support a distinguished career in the security profession.
Olalekan “Felix” Olatundun
Security Officer of the Year for Heroism

The Heroism award is given to a Securitas Officer who performs an act that demonstrates courage, daring, professionalism and self-sacrifice while helping to protect people or property. This year’s recipient, Felix Olatundun of the Winnipeg branch in Western Canada, overcame adversity of his own, only to find his life in the hands of a gunman. Olatundun emigrated from Nigeria, where he was born, to Canada to make a better life for himself and his family. His wife and infant son remained behind so that he could establish himself prior to sending for them. It did not take him long to find a job and a home. However, just as it appeared that things were going according to plan, Olatundun’s wife became ill and died before the family could be reunited in their adopted country.

Olatundun remained focused on his goal of creating a life that would give him the flexibility to be home when his son returned from school. Working as a Security Officer by day and attending university classes in the evening, he was professional and reliable, covering additional shifts when requested. His post at a retail convenience store was not in the best part of town, but he performed his duties diligently without complaint. One day, while on duty, a man came in to rob the store and placed a gun to Olatundun’s back. Aware that the lives of the store’s patrons and employees were also at risk, he remained calm and informed the gunman that he was unarmed. Despite the officer’s assurances, the assailant pulled the trigger, but the gun misfired. When the gun failed to fire a second time, Olatundun realized that he might not have another opportunity to take action. While the gunman was distracted by his weapon’s failure, Olatundun overpowered him and restrained him, giving the store’s occupants a chance to flee and summon law enforcement.

Calm in the Face of Danger

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Although he faced great danger, Olatundun remained focused and acted with Integrity and bravery, acting selflessly and never losing sight of his duties. In all, he prevented a robbery and saved the lives of 11 people, including his own. He was also able to provide a description to law enforcement that led to the suspect's apprehension. Officer Olatundun is a testament to Securitas’ values and his fellow officers. In the almost four years he has been with the company, he has consistently exceeded expectations and never missed a day of work. Even in the wake of the attempted robbery, he immediately returned to duty. Humbled by the outpouring of support and attention, Olatundun credits the incident with making him a stronger and more committed officer. His colleagues point to him as an inspiration and reason they are proud to be associated with Securitas.

Branch Manager Ralph Clinch described Felix as “a pleasure to work with.” In his presentation of the award, he said, “I’m proud of Felix. He’s a dedicated Officer—definitely one of our finest. Because of him this event did not end in tragedy. We are all better for knowing him.”

Felix has since been promoted to Site Supervisor at a large telecommunications client site. He expects to complete his Master’s degree in Geological Sciences in the fall. Felix spoke emotionally about his pride in being a Securitas Officer and his desire to continue to grow and be an even better officer. He was equally passionate in explaining his ambition to use his advanced degree to find ways to help the environment and promote sustainable choices.

For Felix, the trip to receive his award also provided the opportunity to be reunited with his sister Funmilayo McCutcheon who accompanied him as his guest. She lives in Nashville, TN and the two have not seen each other in eight years. Although as quiet and humble as her brother, her pride in his being recognized as a hero was obvious. Without a doubt, Felix’s drive and ambition are qualities that will serve him well as he continues his career.

**Everyday Heroes**

Both 2016 winners are shining examples of Securitas values in action. Their service and dedication are a model for all employees. Although the most recent to be awarded, they stand in good company with officers who’ve been previously recognized and all officers who, in the course of their duties, distinguish themselves through actions large and small and demonstrate what it means to be an Everyday Hero.

President and CEO Santiago Galaz described it best when he said, “It’s always nice to see and hear about the important roles our security officers play in the field every day. By meeting Felix and Jamon, we can better appreciate the 100,000 Securitas Officers in North America.” Those who attended the presentation and were able to personally thank them for their service and dedication would undoubtedly concur. It was an honor to meet them and we wish them every success in their future endeavors.