

On Sunday night, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division named Corporal Eddie Tompkins, who is assigned to Gwinnett County, as their 2016 Ranger of the Year. Corporal John Evans, who works in Glynn County on the coast, received the James R. Darnell Award as the runner-up to Ranger of the Year.

Corporal Eddie Tompkins

“These Rangers have proved themselves leaders among their peers this past year,” said DNR Commissioner Mark Williams. “They work hard every day to enforce the conservation laws of the state and to ensure public safety and I applaud their contributions.”

Tompkins, who earlier this year, was named the 2015 Georgia Boating Officer of the Year for his outstanding enforcement efforts on the very busy Lake Sidney Lanier, proved his versatility off the lake last year through his ability to detect, find, and apprehend poachers.

Last year he logged 78 hunting-related complaints and 504 hours spent working wildlife enforcement. He issued 76 violator citations and apprehended an astounding 22 persons for hunting without permission.

While attending to his regular duties, Tompkins was also enrolled in the Professional Management Program at Columbus State University, a program he will complete later this year.

“Corporal Tompkins is a team player and is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting our citizens.” said Col. Eddie Henderson, director of the Law Enforcement Division. “I am very proud of Eddie and he deserve this distinguished award.”

Corporal John Evans

Evans, who recently earned a promotion from Ranger First Class (RFC) to Corporal, is known as a well-rounded Ranger who is dedicated to serving Georgians. This past year, he had a total of 267 enforcement contacts and conducted over 200 Wildlife Management Area and State Park patrols, resulting in 79 violator contacts and four drug cases. On the waterways, Evans documented over 540 boating safety hours that included 92 water patrols in which he checked 432 boats. He made six Boating Under the Influence arrests and logged 18 Search and Rescue missions. He also spent 136 hours on patrols under the Department's Joint Enforcement Agreement with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement.

"We can always count on Corporal Evans for solid conservation law enforcement in our coastal Georgia region," said Henderson. "He consistently performs at the highest level and is a great role model for our newer Rangers."

The winners were selected from a group of seven nominees, one from each DNR Law Enforcement region across the state. The 2016 Region Rangers of the Year are:

- Region I (NW Georgia) - RFC Cody Jones
- Region II (NE Georgia) - Cpl. Eddie Tompkins
- Region III (E. Central Georgia) - RFC Tim Butler
- Region IV (W. Central Georgia) - RFC Keith Page
- Region V (SW Georgia) - RFC Jesse Harrison
- Region VI (S. Central Georgia) - Cpl. Tommy Daughtrey
- Region VII (Coastal Georgia) - Cpl. John Evans

All seven nominees are well-known as outstanding role models and public servants within their respective communities.