Surfside Police Department

Award and/or commendation

Date of occurrence: 04/25/2017

Employee Name: John Gentile

Classification: Police Officer

Unit/Division: Patrol

Award/Commendation type and recommendations: Letter of Commendation

Narrative: On 04/27/2017 at 0222 hours, Officer Gentile observed a vehicle make an improper left hand turn from 96St and Collins Ave. A traffic stop was initiated at the 200 block of 96St; the vehicle came to a stop at the SunTrust Parking Lot. Officer Gentile approached the vehicle and smelled an odor of Marijuana coming from the vehicle; he also observed the driver put both his arms out the window. As Officer Gentile got closer he noticed the grip portion of Glock pistol sitting on the center console of the vehicle within reach of the driver in plain view. The driver and passenger were both immediately ordered out of the vehicle by Officer Gentile and back up units who had just arrived. Both subjects were immediately handcuffed and detained. A check of the vehicle produced five other guns, AK-47, shot gun, rifle, and three semi-automatic hand guns, several loaded magazines and over two hundred rounds of ammunition in the vehicle. All of the firearms were loaded and had one in the chamber except for one. Marijuana less than 20 Grams was also located inside of the vehicle. Post Miranda the driver admitted to driving with the AK-47 on his lap at the time of the stop and then placing it on the passenger side floor board and attempting to conceal it with a towel before vehicle came to a complete stop. Both subjects were arrested for various weapons charges and a narcotics charge. Officer Gentile also made two other traffic stops during April where he seized a significant amount of marijuana and two additional firearms. Officer Gentile made a total of seven arrests in the month of April. Officer Gentile is to be commended for being proactive; stopping potential crimes from occurring and taking these very dangerous weapons off the streets. Congratulations to Officer John Gentile as the recipient of Officer of the Month…well deserved!