

On Tuesday, May 10, 2011, Supervisory Law Enforcement Officer William Calvert was presented with the Regional Directors Honor Award by Cindy Dohner, the Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Region.



Officer Bill Calvert (second from right) With Poached Turtle Eggs

Officer Calvert works closely with our law enforcement partners to develop a network of agencies that closely monitor area beaches for individuals poaching sea turtle eggs. This network includes Agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Palm Beach and Martin County Sheriff's Departments, and a number of local police departments. Local police can call on Officer Calvert 24 hours a day seven days a week.

For three years running, this collaboration has resulted in the apprehension and conviction in Federal Court of major sea turtle egg poachers. One poacher was caught with a tote bag containing 123 sea turtle eggs, the majority of which were returned to a nest on the beach. The poacher pled guilty.

Officer Calvert also took the lead in getting a local agency to clean up a diesel spill that had been leaking into the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge after construction of a water control structure. It was not until Officer Calvert informed the site manager that he planned to investigate the spill as a criminal case that the agency acknowledged the problem. Significant diesel fuel had saturated the soil and leached into refuge waters. It took five months, but the site was cleaned up in January 2011 at a cost of more than \$60,000.

After getting a tip from two off-duty Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission Officers, Officer Calvert apprehended two suspects who hunted waterfowl and shot over their daily limit, then tried to hide the evidence. They each were fined \$500, banned from hunting or possessing firearms for two years, and had to forfeit their firearms estimated at more than \$1,500.

Officer Calvert manages a complex workload that requires coordination with multiple agencies, Federal Court Districts, and U.S. Attorneys. He also mentors many newer officers.