



*From left to right: Vernon Keenan, director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Nora Lott Hayes, president, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill—Georgia; Dan Kirk, assistant director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Dawn M. Diedrich, deputy director, Georgia Bureau of Investigation; Captain Larry Branson, Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department; President Ruecker*

### **Multi-Agency Team Award: Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crisis Intervention Team Program**

The 2008 Multi-Agency Team Award was conferred to a statewide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program led by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. This comprehensive and innovative program was developed in partnership with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Georgia Sheriffs' Association, the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, the local office of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Since 2004, the CIT program has provided training to over 2,000 Georgia law enforcement officers from 150 Georgia law enforcement agencies. The Georgia CIT program protects the rights of people with mental illness and other brain disorders, such as posttraumatic stress disorder and developmental disabilities, who are in crises by training agencies in techniques to de-escalate crises and, in many cases, to refer individuals for treatment instead of simply arresting and incarcerating them.