

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.



Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

Garner Celebrates Anniversary & Change



A decade of adapting to excelling at a changing mission is what the staff of the Garner Correctional Institution recently joined together to celebrate. The visiting room of the facility hosted the GCI Anniversary 2003 gathering with commemorative pens and a plaque listing those

who have served since the beginning. The level four Newtown facility officially opened on November 17, 1992. After a blessing was delivered by Chaplain Angelo Calabrese, Warden Giovanni Gomez praised the staff that has developed into “an organization with a tradition of excellence.” Warden Gomez recounted the facility’s changing mission from mental health programming to Close Custody, to Close Monitoring and now back to mental health. “With every change, you



Garner CI employees celebrate Anniversary

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Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community re-integration

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From the Commissioner

What an incredible year! It is time to reflect back on the myriad of achievements that we as an agency had established as goals and then rapidly excelled in the completion of over the course of 2003. It literally seems only a short while ago that Governor John Rowland selected me as the sixth Commissioner of our Department which actually occurred on March 17th. I am grateful for the challenge and confidence that act represented as well as for the honor of being your Commissioner. I was granted a free hand by the Governor to appoint my own team of administrators, which has been crucial to our success and our future direction. We immediately set about systematically reorganizing our agency, to achieve further efficiencies and ensure a highly responsible steward of the



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About and for
correctional
professionals

January 4 -17
2004

Agency good neighbors

Captain Will Mobley and C/O Jeff MacDonald of the Bridgeport CC addressed a group of students at the UCONN Campus in Waterbury on November 16, 2003. Mobley and MacDonald were invited by Adjunct Professor Martin Arnold, a Professor of Communication, to demonstrate how correctional professionals utilize communication to manage inmates and maintain order within the correctional environment. C/O MacDonald conducted a presentation



C/O Jeff MacDonald seen with a group of staff and students at the UCONN Waterbury Campus.

on Interpersonal Communication Skills discussing techniques used to manage and influence inmate behavior. Other topics discussed were career opportunities in corrections and the potential for professional growth within a diverse and dynamic workforce.

Commissioner, Cont'd

taxpayer's money. Immediately, the number of Deputy Commissioners was reduced from four to two for a savings of \$250,000 annually. The prior system of a half dozen Lead Wardens was streamlined into two District Administrators, which geographically as well as functionally now delineate our agency. I have had the opportunity to reshape the Warden's ranks of our Department, with only two Wardens remaining at their past facilities. Through those and other appointments I have been able to promote some of the exceptionally talented and qualified staff that makes up our ranks, and in the process furthering the depth of diversity and experience at the upper levels of our agency. The issue of sexual harassment has been appropriately and effectively addressed through the Stipulated Agreement as well as with a new Administrative Directive 2.2 which not only has made us a model for other agencies in our state but also for correction departments across the country. Our Diversity Council concept has given voice to our staff at all levels of our agency, empowering them to improve the environment in which we work while providing us with a means to appreciate and celebrate who we are. Our new Mission Statement, while still based on public safety, better reflects our mandate of public safety to have offenders succeed upon release and become law abiding, while our vision details our goals and role within the state's law enforcement community.

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Pride.
AT
Work

for
January 4 -17, 2004

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Submit items by
Wednesday
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month in advance
for calendar events.

Garner CI, Cont'd

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Employees of Garner CI gathered at the Anniversary celebration

met the challenge and exceeded all expectations. I am truly proud to be your Warden. History has proven your success," he said. The fact that Garner CI's history has also included adversity was highlighted by CO Clifton Shannon, who recounted the riot which occurred at the facility on April 21, 1993. "The night of the 21st was a time that all personality conflicts were put aside to come to the aid of fellow officers that may have been in trouble," he said. "Without this togetherness, there was no telling what would have happened to myself or the other officers that were in the

way of the rioting inmates. That night showed that there was a sense of pride and unity between staff." Based on Garner CI's record, Warden Gomez concluded, "Our future looks equally rewarding."



Did you know?

A new feature in PRIDE this issue comes from the agency's Facilities Management and Engineering Unit. Did you Know is aimed at making you more knowledgeable about issues in our everyday life. If you have an idea or question for a future column please contact David Batten, the Acting Director at 860.692.7554.



NiCad batteries, found in rechargeable electronic devices such as cordless telephones, power tools and cameras should not be thrown in the trash where they will pollute the air or water. Connecticut law requires these batteries be recycled.

NiCad stands for nickle-cadmium, two metals used in the manufacture of these batteries. The cadmium is likely to escape from the battery case if the battery ends up in household trash. If the trash is burned in a trash-to-energy plant, where most trash in Connecticut goes, cadmium can be released into the air. If the battery ends up in a landfill, or when the remaining ash is landfilled, cadmium can be released and carried into the groundwater.

What can you do if you have a NiCad battery that you can no longer use? Recycle it! The Rechargeable Battery Corporation (RBRC) has been established by manufacturers of batteries and the products that contain rechargeable batteries and has developed ways to make it easy to recycle these batteries. You can return the battery to any of several retail stores that have collection points for rechargeable batteries, or drop off the battery at one of several municipal collection points. These collection points can be found on the Internet by going to the RBRC website at www.rbrc.com and entering your zip code, or by dialing 1.800.822.8837. Many large national retailers, such as the Home Depot, Wal-Mart Radio Shack and Staples, as well as many local hardware and cellular telephone stores, collect NiCad batteries for recycling. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact Greg Fitzpatrick, Environmental Analyst 3 in Central Office at 860.692.7897 or greg.fitzpatrick@po.state.ct.us



Warden Gomez and Major Lahda presenting staff with commemorative pins

From the Front Lines

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This week's edition features a letter written by C/O Frederick Bogalhas of the MacDougall-Walker CI thanking staff members who supported him while he was serving overseas.

In March of 2003 I was sent overseas to a location in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I served in the Air National Guard 104th Fighter Wing in Westfield, MA. My duties entailed maintaining the Tf-34 jet engine on the A-10 Thunderbolt, more affectionately called the "Warthog". Prior to my departure, I had many staff members who were asking about my status and offering their help in any way possible. It was a tough thing to leave my family and friends but knew I had people that would help my family in my absence. As a reminder, I took along several DOC Badges and Shields to be flown in combat. A few weeks after arriving I called my wife who informed me that Officer Ireland had called to inquire about me. She also said the staff were conducting a care package collection to be sent to all of us serving overseas. You cannot imagine the joy I felt to hear this. Those simple acts to remember us brought the whole picture into focus for me. I wanted to make sure I did something to honor the men and women of the MacDougall-Walker CI for their support and wishes. Flying the badges over the skies of Iraq to me symbolized that without the support of the DOC I would not have been able to perform my job to the utmost. In America's victory, the men and women of the MWCI should take PRIDE that share in that victory!



Sra Frederick Bogalhas
USAF

Around the cell block

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Commissioner, Cont'd

For the first time we have a Code of Ethics which spells out the expectations of the high level of professionalism that our agency is rightfully proud of. Through lay-offs, retirements and military call-ups, we have endured as a Department, covering the posts and duties of others, out of commitment to them and the public whom we serve. Through it all, we have come together to support each other. One vision, one mission, one team is the message I gave the top managers when I recently swore them in and I think it sums up the Connecticut Department of Correction as we begin 2004. Above all else, let me make very clear that none of these exceptional improvements and none of our successes would have been possible without you. Our staff is our strength. Your dedication to duty is what sustains us on a daily basis and I could not be more proud of you. Our facilities remain safe, secure and orderly, despite the population of offenders we continue to be charged with confining. Each of you has contributed to that record. During the past year, we have set a rapid pace and a high level of expectation. Challenges such as the consolidation of mental health treatment and the Board of Parole as well as further budgetary constraints lie ahead. But, because of you, I am eternally confident that we will not only succeed but exceed what is expected of us. Thank you and here's to a year full of PRIDE in 2004.

☀ Arkansas- The state corrections department gave each of the state's 13,500 inmates \$5, two apples and two oranges for Christmas.

☀ Oklahoma- An inmate who had hanged himself was misidentified and given to the wrong family which held a funeral and burial.

☀ Florida- Nearly 800 inmates representing 26 faiths are being housed at the nation's first faith-based prison, which is focused on the spirituality of the offenders.

☀ California- Local politicians have plans to tear down San Quentin Prison, a landmark for 151-years and replace it with high-density housing.

State Comptroller Praises DOC after Tour



The woman whose signature appears on each and every state paycheck, including those of DOC staff, recently experienced first hand the hard work and dedication of the Connecticut's correctional employees. State Comptroller Nancy Wyman took part in a tour by a group of state lawmakers of the Cheshire Correctional Institution. In a letter to Commissioner Theresa Lantz, Ms. Wyman stated she was not only very impressed by the excellent appearance of the facility, but was also privileged to meet, "the fine men and women that help make this a truly great facility. My highest praise is dedicated to Deputy Commissioner Murphy, Warden Dzurenda, and the hundreds of staff members at Cheshire Correctional," she said. "The ladies and gentlemen I met along the tour were helpful, informative, and knowledgeable on a wide range of topics. It is clear that the dedicated individuals employed at this institution are of the highest caliber." Ms. Wyman also commented on the remarkable security measures at Cheshire CI, as well as the reduction in violent incidents which she called a testament to the great accomplishments of the professional staff leading the facility.

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PRIDE salutes staff

Officer Kevin Piferski of the Bridgeport CC who recently recovered \$14,000 from the cushion of a wheelchair being used by a newly admitted inmate. Warden Walter Ford and Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy commended Officer Piferski's diligence.

Two officers from the Corrigan-Radgowski CC recently witnessed the theft of a car from a gas station where a customer had left it running. Their detailed cell phone report to State Police led to the thief being taken into custody after a short chase. Warden John Tarascio praises the quick actions of the officers whose names are being withheld since the thief is now an inmate at their institution.

DOC North District Hockey Team



(Bottom Row L-R) John McCormack, Steve Poulin, Kevin Manley, Jim Gilbert, Bernie Loubier and Jeff Allen (Top Row L-R) Bill Schmidt, Mike Phillips, Pete Sciliano, Mike Girard, Mike Croil and Jamie Graham.

The Connecticut Department of Correction's North District Hockey Team participated in the Massachusetts State Police Hockey Tournament on November 7, 8 & 9th in Marlboro, Mass. The North District Team defeated the South District Team, Mass. State Police Troop D and the Woonsocket New Hampshire Fire Dept. In the Semi-final game the North District Team lost a close game 6-5 to the Coast Guard Team.

You are invited to support the department's team, one of the strongest in years. You may call Mike Phillips at 860.566.7500 x5279 for information or a game schedule.

EOQ's

HVAC Technician John "Jack" Flannery was honored as Employee of the Quarter for Facilities Management and Engineering – South District during the previous quarter (October-December).

Chairman of the Committee, PFE 1 Nick Costanzo, stated during the presentation that Jack has a great knowledge of his facility and is known throughout the facility and the Maintenance Department as a team player. He is always there to answer questions and offer support for any given situation to support his fellow workers with a high level of enthusiasm.



Congratulations on a job well done.

Supervised Population

1 8 1 1 7

On Oct. 22, 2000 the population

Recent MVP - card recipients:

- Allen, Edward, C/O CRCC
- Bannish, James SST McWCI
- Billue, Belina CHNS MYI
- Brunski, Daniel C/O CRCC
- Calabro, Lori CC WCB
- Daley, Christopher C/O CRCC
- Davignon, Susan C/O CRCC
- Dickson, Brian C/O CRCC
- Domizio, Jody C/O MYI
- Dowd, Andrew C/O CRCCI
- Dugan, Cariann C/O MYI
- Durham, Richard CFSSIII CRCC
- Elder, Mack Chaplain CRCC
- Fulcher, Brett C/O CRCC
- Fulton, Patrick C/O CRCC
- Galotti, Chris CHN MYI
- Geer, Richard CFSSII CRCC
- Jencks, Charles C/O CRCC
- Jolin, Paul C/O CRCI
- Jones, Michelle CC CRCC
- Kaune, Nancy C/O CRCC
- Kivela, Karen CFSSII CRCC
- Krochko, Ann CLPN MYI
- Lesniewski, Jay C/O CRCC
- Marshall, Charles C/O CRCC
- Mattson, William C/O CRCC
- McKinnon, Charles C/O CRCC
- Myers, Wayne C/O CRCC
- Noyce, George C/O CRCC
- O'Connor, Keith C/O CRCC
- Ouellette, Alle Rec Spec WCB
- Paquette, Susan CC CRCC
- Rivera, Robert C/O CRCC
- Robinson, Robert CFSSII CRCC
- Sanders, Bryan C/O CRCC
- Sas, Robin Sec I CRCC
- Shippee, Thomas C/O CRCC
- Skulczyck, Kevin C/O CRCC
- Swanson, Melissa Res Analst CO
- Tatum, Charles CFSSII CRCC
- Ware, Jason C/O CRCC
- Winters, Roderick C/O CRCC

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Condolences

 Director Foltz and the Fiscal Services staff regret to announce the passing of Fiscal Administrative Supervisor Steve Plourde's father.

 Warden Martin and the staff of Brooklyn CI are saddened by the passing of former Correctional Officer Patricia Stabach. Officer Stabach was the sister of C/O Debbie Hayslip (Bergin CI) and Commissary Operator Scott Plant (South District). She is the sister-in-law to Correctional Stores Supervisor Jack Hayslip (South District). She is also the cousin of Warden Dan Martin (Brooklyn CI), Lt. Chance Martin (South District Office) C/O Chad Martin (Corrigan-Radgowski CI) and C/O Cheryl Taylor (Gates CI).

 The passing of John Harnick Sr. saddens Director Foltz of Fiscal Services, Warden Dzurenda of Cheshire CI and their respective staff. John, a correctional officer at Cheshire CI for over 25 years, is the father of John Harnick Jr. of Fiscal Services.

 Warden Moises Gonzalez and the staff of Manson YI are saddened by the death of Paul Oliver, uncle of Correctional Officer Mary Ellen (Boyle) Crehan.

 Warden Gillis and the staff at Gates CI are saddened to announce the passing of Robert Harris, husband of Office Assistant Joyce Harris.

Wrap Stars

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The sound of inmates rapping has become quite commonplace over the past decade. This past month, several inmates from the York CI took their show on the road to the Niantic Community Church, much to the delight of some local volunteers and many grateful children. However, no catchy rhymes or compelling rhythms were heard, only the sound of crinkling paper. These inmates were Christmas wrappers.

Several thousand toys were donated, wrapped, tagged and shipped by more than 50 volunteers to the children of women who are currently incarcerated. The Toy Project has been in existence for about 20 years, growing steadily each year. Toys and donations are solicited throughout the year from churches, schools, civic groups and individuals.

The project is designed to bring smiles to the faces of some needy kids, but on this day the smiles were owned by all who took part in this act of selflessness. The Community Outreach Crew proved you don't have to rhyme to be a "wrap star".



Thank You

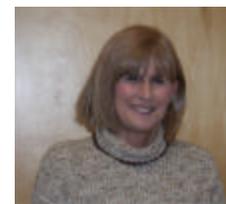
On behalf of the Professional Program, we would like to send out a heartfelt "THANK YOU" to the many families at the Department of Correction who have opened their hearts and homes to make a difference in the lives of Connecticut's foster children.

The Professional Parenting Program is a non-profit, specialized foster care project operated by the Institute of Professional Practice, Inc. The program provides services for children with special needs, many that have a history of childhood abuse, neglect and trauma. They have difficulties at school, home and in the community.

The Professional Program currently has 86 children in placement and 75 certified foster homes. On a monthly basis, they receive dozens of requests for foster homes; the reality is they never seem to have enough homes to accept all the children referred to them.

If you are interested in joining IPP in their efforts to create a future of "success stories," please contact Barbara at 1.888.968.4489 x139.

Calendar



A Retirement Party in honor of Jackie Bourn will be held at the Chowder Pot on Wednesday, February 11th at noon. The cost of \$30.00 includes your choice of chicken, beef or fish and a gift. To RSVP you may contact:

Linda Dobransky	860.692.7871
Arlene Kawecki	860.692.7498
Mary Johnson	860.692.7493
Lynn Milling	860.292.3404

The cut off date is Friday, February 6th.