

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction

P.R.I.D.E.



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

AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

Graduation -A Family Affair

“To thine own self be true, integrity first.” With that advice, the 84 graduates of Pre-Service class # 223 were awarded their diplomas and badges, before an audience filled with friends, family and loved ones, during a recent ceremony at Maloney CTSD.

After a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Counselor Supervisor Leigh Ware of York CI, Commissioner Lantz extended her appreciation to the families and friends who were on hand to help support the graduates and celebrate their milestone. She stated, “ With nearly 28 years in this profession I know first hand that Corrections is a rewarding and challenging career.”



New Cadet C/O Johnnie Wright, center, sister Joyce Wright, left and mother Marie Perry, right

Continued on Page 5, *Family Affair*

Front Line Hero Visits Central Office

Correction Officer Shirley Lambert of Northern CI, in her soft-spoken manner, confessed that she doesn't feel like a hero. She made the comment as she walked past the Wall of Heroes, across from Café 24 at Central Office, on which, among other DOC staff on active military duty is her picture, taken in Army fatigues in Baghdad, surrounded by children. She'd taken time from an all too brief visit home to accept the invitation of Commissioner Theresa Lantz to have lunch with the agency's executive team. For more than an hour, as she marveled at the real potatoes and fresh vegetables that are not on her Army menu, she made vividly clear



Director Jones, D/C Salsbury, Officer Lambert, Commissioner Lantz, Director Johnson and D/C Murphy

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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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About and for
correctional
professionals

January 18 -
31, 2004

Manson Scholarship Awarded to DOC Family's Son

The determined pursuit of a law degree was provided a financial assist in the name of the Connecticut Department of Correction's second Commissioner, John R. Manson, during the agency's annual scholarship breakfast. The recipient for 2004, with plans for a career in the legal profession is Raheem Ahmed, a University of Connecticut freshman and son of 20-year correctional veteran, Officer William Ahmed of the Cheshire Correctional Institution. Raheem's mother is retired DOC Counselor Supervisor Carrie Ahmed who also served the citizens of our state at Cheshire CI. More than 50 Department staff generously attended the breakfast at Central Office which was also attended by Commissioner Manson's widow, Carolyn, and former Commissioner Raymond Lopes. The criteria for the \$1,000 scholarship also called for community contribution, a connection that Manson also stressed for the correctional system. Raheem has volunteered for the Islamic Department of Information and in that capacity has distributed literature and participated in outreach ministry for the community. Commissioner Lantz praised the scholarship program, and those who support it, for contributing to the well being of the agency's correctional family, which faithfully stands behind the professional men and women of the agency.



Commissioner Lantz and Carolyn Manson with the Ahmed family

Hero, Cont'd

the perilous danger that continues to face the dozens of Department of Correction staff, who are courageously serving our country around the world. Officer Lambert's unit, the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion out of Danbury, was called up a year ago and has now spent nearly half that time in Iraq. Commissioner Lantz expressed her gratitude to Officer Lambert, not only for her dedication and sacrifice on behalf of our country, but also for her dispatches from the front lines, published here in PRIDE at Work, which have assisted Department staff in remembering the men and women who for now are answering another call to duty. United States Army Reserve Supply Sergeant Lambert detailed the efforts the American forces are making in Iraq to assist the beleaguered civilian population. At the same time, major bombings by the resistance have struck too close several times and even the children are known to innocently hand over armed grenades to unsuspecting soldiers. By the end of the month Officer Lambert will return to the Middle East, this time to Kuwait where she is assisting in the redeployment of additional forces into Iraq. She is grateful for the support she has received from her correctional colleagues and looks forward to perhaps reporting to duty at Northern CI sometime this summer. When she does, despite her humility, she and the others who like her have put their lives on the line, will be called heroes.

Pride.
AT
Work

for
January 18 - 31,
2004

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for calendar events.

A Graduation and Good-Bye for CERT

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The excitement of family and friends was quickly quieted by the echoing stutter step of the squad of officers who marched into the auditorium. Like other Correctional Emergency Response Team graduations, this ceremony would celebrate the successful completion of two stressful weeks of elite training, which insure the agency is prepared should the worst ever occur. But this graduation of Tactical Basic Training Class 04-01 would also mark the end of an era for CERT, with the retirement of Major Bruce Bussiere, Chief of Tactical Operations for the agency. As the graduates sat with their helmets by the their side, Major Bussiere, one last time, instilled in them the level of faith and confidence the Department will place in their deployment. Commissioner Theresa Lantz offered her



congratulations for the dedication and determination displayed by those who had volunteered for this training. She also praised Major Bussiere and detailed for the 17 graduates the extensive experience and expertise that he had collected over a distinguished 23-year career. Bussiere was the last member of the original 30 member CERT squad still on active duty. The Major was awarded the Medal of Valor on three separate occasions, the first for rescuing a fellow staff member during a riot in 1982. He rose to become a nationally recognized authority on Correctional tactical operations. “He has quietly kept us always prepared and vigilant,” said Commissioner Lantz. The CERT motto that Major Bussiere has taught for years, is now offered to him with a wish for success in his next career. Easy Day, Major.

Farewell to Major Bussiere

On one of his last days at Central Office, after 23-years of duty with the Connecticut Department of Correction, Major Bruce Bussiere had a quick and direct assessment of his career, “I have a great job,” he said.

The Chief of Tactical Operations officially retired on January 23, 2004, passing the reins of the Tactical Operations Unit and the agency’s emergency preparedness onto Major Michael Lajoie.

“I thank the agency and the Commissioner for allowing me the great opportunities within the department,” Bussiere said. “This agency has been very good to me throughout my career. I will miss the great people I have come to know over the past twenty-three years. I wish everyone well.”

A member of a law enforcement family, Major Bussiere had intended to become a police officer, but instead began a career in corrections at Somers State Prison, and worked his way through the ranks, winning three Medals of Valor along the way.

Major Bussiere considered it a distinct honor to have been a member of the Tactical Operations Unit since its inception in 1982 and the last member of the original 30 person squad still on active duty. The legacy he is most proud of was raising the level of respect of the Tactical Operations Unit with outside law enforcement agencies.

Major Bussiere also worked diligently setting the standard for emergency planning that other correctional agencies across the country would use as a model. He is recognized as a national authority on tactical operations. Bruce will be working as the Chief Investigator for the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and hopes to have more time to devote to coaching football and his son.

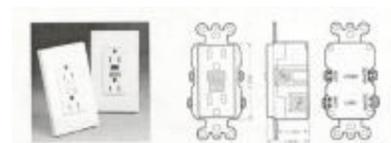
Continued on Page 6, *Bussiere*

Did you know?

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have an idea or question for a future column please contact David Batten, Acting Director at 860.692.7554.



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What is a GFCI outlet? Commonly referred to as GFI's. They are easily recognized by their rectangular buttons, which are RED, BLACK, and/or WHITE located on the front of the outlet. Refer to figure above right. These buttons allow the homeowner to test and reset the trip unit inside the GFCI.

GFCI outlet monitors the current (Amps) traveling into and out of the electrical circuit. When an imbalance occurs, current is being leaked out of the circuit. This is referred to as a Ground Fault because current is escaping through the grounded conductor. This type of fault may travel through a person's body causing burns, severe shock, electrocution and in some cases death. GFCI's are the most effective means of protecting people against electrical shock hazards. Most people assume they are protected from ground faults by their circuit breakers. This is not the case. Circuit breakers are designed to guard against overloads and short circuits. They are not designed to protect people from electrical shock. If you are like me, you're probably wondering why it is called a "GFCI?" Well, GFCI stands for Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter and that's a mouth full. Presently, the National Electrical Code (NEC) which safeguards persons and property from hazards arising from the use of electricity requires GFCI protection in the following locations:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Kitchen – countertop receptacles | Bathroom – all receptacles |
| Outdoor – All receptacles including rooftops | Hot tubs – all receptacles |
| Garage and Basements | Temporary power during construction – all receptacles |
| Swimming pool – No receptacle within 10 ft. from the pool wall | |

Take a look around your house, apartment or at work, you're sure to find a few. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Joseph Suchecki at 860.692.7592

Note: Source of information regarding this article includes GE, Leviton, Bryant and the NEC.

Holiday gathering



The pictures below are of staff enjoying the HCC QWL Holiday gathering at Jaqueline's. Staff from Central Office as well as other facilities throughout the agency attended the event. The general

consensus was that a good time was had by all that attended the event.



Family Affair, Cont'd

The challenge to the cadets to uphold their integrity came from Commissioner Linda Spoonster- Schwartz of the Department of Veteran Affairs who provided the ceremony's keynote address. She shared her extensive life challenges and experience as a retired Major of the United States Air Force, who served during the Vietnam War and retired only after injuries sustained in an aircraft accident while on duty. She is the first woman to be named Commissioner of her department in the state of Connecticut. She also urged the graduates to, "Aim for excellence...as they start down the path of courage, dedication and commitment to public service." "Don't resign yourself to mediocrity," she said.



Among the 84 graduates, eight had family members



(L-R) Richard Iwanik with son Christopher Iwanik

on hand to pin their badges. HVAC Technician Christopher Iwanik (Northern) was pinned by his father Richard Iwanik who recently retired from the department. Captain Edward Maldonado (MWCI) and his sister Correction Officer Jamary Maldonado (Enfield) pinned the badge on their stepfather Laundry Supervisor Benjamin Romero (MWCI). Correction Officer Marie Perry (Enfield), who has twenty-three years in the department, was on hand to pin her daughter Johnnie Perry (Osborn). Marie stated she had finally convinced her daughter to join her and her niece, Correction Officer Joyce Wright, who has twelve years in the DOC. As Johnnie was being interviewed by a reporter from the Journal Inquirer she was asked what her aspirations were in regards to her career in the DOC, she smiled and quickly said " who knows, maybe one day, I will be the commissioner."

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service for January 2004

Chapdelaine, Joseph	Major	Central Office
Dumas, Gary	Correction Officer	Brgn CI
Haddad, Miriam	Correctional Counselor	NHCC
Hunter, Raymond	Correction Officer	NHCC
Lucibello, Richard Jr.	State School Teacher	BCC
Miranda, Miguel	Correction Officer	HCC
Murray, Gary	Correction Officer	CRCI
Pirro, John	Lieutenant	ECI
Withers, Patricia	Office Assistant	Central Office

Employees with 30 Years of Service for January 2004

Grabowiecki, Richard	Correctional Maintenance Supervisor	NHCC
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C/O Miquel Miranda of the Hartford CC celebrates 20 years of service

Bussiere, Cont'd

"I cannot take the full responsibility for these accomplishments" Bussiere said, "I did not get these things done by myself. I credit my dynamic staff for their teamwork, help and support. Without them, we would not have been able to succeed."



(L-R) Major Bussiere sharing information with Major Lajoie on his final day at Central Office

Good Grades Lead to Good Time

A Connecticut Superior Court judge's deal with an inmate that pursuit of an education behind bars would result in a reduced sentence has paid off for the offender. Two years ago Judge Elliot Solomon made the offer to the inmate that if he successfully completed his GED and a drug treatment program the judge would cut several years from the inmate's sentence. The now 20 year old man recently appeared in court to report to the judge that he'd obtained his diploma while at the Manson Youth Institution, and had completed a drug program. Based on his accomplishments, the offender's sentence was reduced from 11 to eight years after the judge had checked the inmate's story with officials at Manson YI. "I'm thrilled to give you back some time. This is a huge beginning for you. Get further educated. It's in my interest to make you a better member of society. Do it for yourself. Keep it up," said Judge Solomon.

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Recent MVP- award recipients:

Allen, Adrienne	CO	BCC
Aubertin, Kenneth	Capt	MYI
Bederman, Rudolph	Lt	BCC
Brown, Jacqueline	CO	BCC
Campbell, Phillip	Lt	BCC
Carboneau, Richard	CO	CRCI
Compare, Donna	CC	BCC
Cox, Walter	C/O	HCC
Dale, Robert	C/O	HCC
Dumas, Wayne	Capt.	OCI
Ellison, Eric	CC	CO
Flodquist, Richard	DW	BCC
Galberth, William		NHCC
Garcia, Diana	CC	BCC
Goguen, Linda	PO 2	CO
Granville, Gregg	CO	OCI
Greenwood, Daniel	CO	McWCI
Haberern, Edward	CO	OCI
Haynes, Mark	CO	BCI
Hough, Peter	C/O	HCC
Kastenhuber, Kenneth	C/O	MYI
King, Wanda	CO	BCC
Latofsky, Charles	GMO	McWCI
Lopez, Arsenio	Voc. Inst.	WCB
Loubier, Matthew	CO	CRCI
Mack, Edward	CIS	McWCI
MacLeod, Shawn	CO	BCI
McCall, Stacey	Clk Typst	BCC
McDevitt, Peter	CC	CO
McEwan, Tara	CC	NCI
Moore, Cynthia	CO	BCC
Morassini, Tom	CIS	OCI
Murchison, Robert	C/O	HCC
Newkirk, Sharon	CO	BCC
Nieves, Alba	CO	BCC
Ouellette, Lise	Sec 2	CO
Pearsall, William	CO	BCI
Perchell, Paula	CO	WCI
Piterski, Kevin	CO	BCC
Rizza, Roberto	CO	NHCC

Around the cell block



Vermont- The state will transfer 350 inmates currently in a Virginia state prison to a private prison in Kentucky.



Minnesota- Overwhelmed with an influx of inmates, two state prisons will reluctantly double cell inmates for the first time.



California- Citing a mass cover-up, a report claims California's prison system has lost control of its ability to investigate and discipline officers for abusing inmates.



Pennsylvania- A federal appeals court ordered the release of a 75-year-old inmate whose life sentence for murder was commuted in 1995.

Condolences



Major Martinez, Acting Director of Health and Addiction Services, is saddened to announce the passing of Marjorie Colf, mother of Kathy Mayer and mother-in-law of Larry Mayer. Kathy retired from Addiction Services in June, 2003.



Warden Choinski and staff of the Northern CI are saddened by the tragic death of Dewayne Shropshire, 18 year old son of C/O Jerome Shropshire of Northern CI.



Warden Correa and staff of the New Haven CC are saddened by the passing of William Keel, Sr., father of C/O James Keel and father-in-law of Dannette Keel of Bridgeport CC.



Warden Carter and staff of the MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened by the death of Matthew D. Canfield, father of C/O Keith Canfield, who passed away on January 15, 2003.

Thank You

On behalf of the family members of Vernita McKinney, a heartfelt thank you to the Commissioner, Wardens, all of the friends and fellow staff throughout the agency, for your kind remembrances. Your thoughtfulness during this difficult time was appreciated.

The McKinney Family

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Agency Good Neighbors



On December 12th the staff from Willard-Cybulski CI and Robinson CI made a large donation to the Children's Study Home in Springfield, MA. Lori Calabro and Allison Ouellette represented WCCI and Paul Ouellette from CRCI provided the staff with a wish list from a child. Staff were extremely generous as they rallied together to provide gifts to 75 children. The Children's Study Home is a non-profit organization, which was founded in 1865. The home works with children who have behavioral and emotional problems. PRIDE was evident as an unfortunate child was given a reason to smile this holiday season thanks to the generosity of our DOC staff members.

Well Done

Warden Sieminski of the Robinson CI received a letter from Mark Gardner, Director of Operations of the Buick Championship, expressing his sincere appreciation to Correctional Officers Thomas Glasheen and Charles Kehoe for providing operational support for the 2003 Greater Hartford Open.

"The operational requirements for such a large event are quite substantial and we could not have done it without the assistance from the Robinson CI staff. I have had the pleasure of working with Officers Kehoe and Glasheen for a few years now and they not only accommodate our wishes, but also do so with extreme passion and professionalism. I consider them vital members of our operational team and look forward to working with them in the future."



(L-R) C/O Charles Kehoe and C/O Thomas Glasheen of CRCI



C/O Kevin Anderson and staff of the Bridgeport CC were thanked by patients and staff of the P.T. Barnum Pediatric Center for their donation of a gingerbread house for the holiday season. Susan M. Chudwick, Director of Development, stated "The house is a wonderful addition which provides the children with an opportunity to escape and be a child while receiving acute medical care."

Calendar

February 6

The Central Office Diversity Council extends an open invitation to employees for a Meet and Greet in Cafe 24 North from 2:00 - Until. Come meet council members, mingle and enjoy refreshments.