

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction

# P.R.I.D.E.



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

# AT WORK

Remember Our Troops

## The DOC Welcomes A New Class

The Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development is once again filled with the sound of new recruits snapping to attention and barking affirmation with a crisp "Sir, yes, Sir." On Friday, August 22, 2003, 37 new employees from Class 222 mustered to get their first taste as Department of Correction employees. According to the Recruitment Division, this is the first Pre-Service class that the DOC has conducted since November 2002.

As though a precursor to the career they have chosen, much of the day was spent filling out insurance, tax and, yes, retirement paperwork.

Class Managers, Lieutenants William Melanson, Peter Melendez and Gemini Smith maintained a watchful eye as the class broke into groups to have their paperwork inspected by the human resource experts on-hand.



Continued on Page 2, *Room for 222*

## German Journalists Visit York CI

The publication in Europe of the book, "Couldn't Keep it to Myself," recently brought a group of German journalists to York CI to learn about the innovative inmate program through which the book was written. The contingent of reporters and photographers, representing some of Germany's leading newspapers and magazines, admitted that their preconceptions about American prisons were significantly altered after spending time in the bright, mural covered school at the women's facility.



Continued on Page 2, *German Journalists*

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### Our Mission

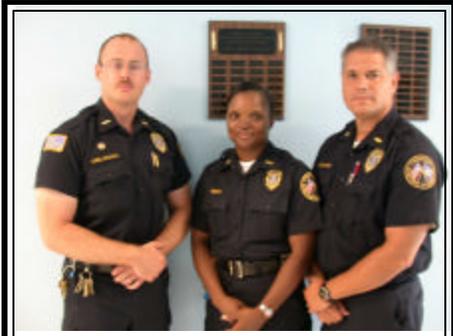
The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and ensure a secure, safe, and humane environment for offenders in a climate that promotes professionalism, respect, integrity, dignity, and excellence.

\* ~ ~ ~ ~ \*

About and for  
correctional  
professionals

August 31 -  
Sept. 14, 2003

## Room for 222, Cont'd



Class Managers Lt. Melanson,  
Lt. Smith and Lt. Melendez.

Ray Filip, Pre-Service Coordinator, addressed the assembly stressing the importance of family to all correctional personnel. He tentatively scheduled an evening when families of the new employees will come to the academy to interact with others and learn about becoming members of our correctional family.

In the coming weeks class members will report for site sensitization at their assigned facilities. They will graduate on October 30, 2003 and report to their assigned facilities on the 31st.

## German Journalists, Cont'd

The book was conceived as part of a Creative Writing course that is taught at York CI by renowned Connecticut author Wally Lamb who has volunteered at the facility for a number of years. About a dozen inmates at a time take part in the bi-weekly class which outwardly encourages better written communication skills. But, as the journalists who sat through one of the classes came to realize, intensive self-examination, dedication and the acceptance of criticism are also a part of the curriculum. The offenders' writing assignments often deal with understanding and taking responsibility for their past lives. After the assignments are read aloud by Mr. Lamb, the efforts are critiqued by the class. The finished work of non-fiction will undergo many drafts and critiques before it's deemed to be completed. From past works, the book was created. As one of those involved in the visit said, "Something like this has never happened in Germany so far. This will help alter the somewhat critical public picture and prejudice that Germans have about U.S. correctional facilities."



## Correctional Opportunities

Visit the agency's wide area network on the "X" drive for current job opportunities. Go to *Doc on 'Dscsw1\Data1\Site'(X:)* and select the folder titled *Recruitment*. Or, see your warden's secretary.

Send your cover letter and resume or application to the DOC, Recruitment, 24 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109 (Phone: 860-692-7600). Performance appraisals, attendance records, and discipline records of agency employees will be reviewed to satisfy Adm. Dir. 2.3.

*The DOC is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## Pride. AT Work

for  
Month August 31 -  
Sept. 14, 2003

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the  
internet throughout  
Connecticut and  
the nation by the  
Department of  
Correction, 24  
Wolcott Hill Road,  
Wethersfield, CT  
06109

John G. Rowland,  
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

Web address:  
[www.doc.state.ct.us](http://www.doc.state.ct.us)

Public Information  
Office telephone:  
860.692.7780  
fax:  
860.692.7783

Submit items by  
Wednesday  
Sept. 17 to be  
published in the  
next edition, and a  
month in advance  
for calendar events.

# From the Frontline

*The following is a letter from Correctional Counselor Jorge Ortiz of the Bridgeport Correctional Center. He has been on active duty since January 20, 2003. He wanted to take a moment and share some of the details of his mission with his friends and family within the Department of Correction.*

I am currently stationed in Iraq serving under the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I have been here since the beginning of the ground war. I was one of 22 soldiers who moved from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait into southern Iraq. Upon crossing the Iraqi border, I was shocked to see the unspeakable realities of poverty, misery and devastation imposed by Saddam Hussein's ruthless regime upon his own people. That same shocking experience gave me an absolute sense of reassurance about the legitimacy of my mission as an American soldier in Iraq.



Originally, the Iraqis extended us a warm and emotive welcome as liberators but unfortunately, that shared excitement was short-lived. Complete dependency on an unresponsive regime, coupled with years of civic indifference, set the stage for one tough mission of dramatic proportions. Most Iraqi town infrastructures were either completely collapsed or non-existent. By infrastructure, I am referring to those basic levels of civil organization, physical facilities and public services, which render any US town functional.

We were assigned to the British Forces sector in a town called Umm Qasr, southern Iraq. Umm Qasr is a town port located right on the Persian Gulf. The British forces (Brits) had established a military governorate designed to establish, maintain and enforce civil order after the war. The Brits identified seven local town members and with diligence, patience and perseverance

established the first ever "Democratic Town Council." Along with the Brits, we had the privilege to work side by side with the Spanish Armed Forces in an adjacent sector. Our Coalition Forces Mission had a threefold but definite purpose. Our purpose was to support civil administrations, provide humanitarian assistance and provide populous resource control to the town of Umm Qasr. Our multinational efforts were geared towards developing a basic form of democratic government designed to evolve into a more efficient one.



Our supporting role proved to be a challenging but also a very rewarding one. Even though we have witnessed an increased impatience and growing discontent, as a result of the slow progress of their basic living conditions, most Iraqis support the presence and efforts of the Coalition Forces. Basic services such as water, electricity and food distribution has been restored and satisfied. Even though there are many other critical issues to contend with, the overall living conditions and standards of living in this fragile country are improving on a daily basis. I am honored and grateful for having played such a crucial role while rebuilding and reshaping the course of Iraq destiny.

MAJ. Jorge D. Ortiz  
304th Civil Affairs Brigade  
United States Army Special  
Operations Command

# Job Well Done

## Officer's Actions Lead to Seizure



Director of Security Dennis Jones commends the actions of a correction officer from Bergin CI, whose alertness during routine mail review has resulted in the seizure of drugs and guns in one of Connecticut's major cities.

In June, Officer Donald Figiela, Intelligence Officer at Bergin, discovered content in a letter which made reference to criminal activity. The letter was quickly passed up the chain of command and onto the police department in the city where the correspondence originated. As a result, police performed a raid, seizing crack cocaine, two pistols and an AK-47 assault rifle.

"Every day the actions of our dedicated staff affect the safety of the public throughout the State of Connecticut," said Director Jones. "In this case, Officer Figiela's commitment to his duty and to fulfilling our mission, had a direct impact on getting guns off the street in one of our cities."

## Officer Assists CSP

Officer Brito of York CI was recently recognized by Lieutenant O'Hara of the Connecticut State Police for her assistance in subduing a suspect who was non-compliant with a CSP Trooper. The incident occurred on June 22, 2003 as Trooper Harbeck of Troop E attempted to remove the suspect who had entered the roadway



and was attempting to flee the scene. In Warden Ricks' letter to Officer Brito, she commended her for "representing this department with bravery and professionalism."

## Bergin CO's to the Rescue



On July 22, 2003, during a severe thunderstorm, three correctional officers from Bergin CI became first responders to a serious motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 44 and 195.

Upon arrival Correctional Officers John Lewerenz, Michael Greenham and Steven Sanelli exited their vehicles to direct traffic and attend to crash victims. The officers continued their efforts following the arrival of EMS personnel and Connecticut State Police. Major Coletti commended their efforts for "stabilizing a very dangerous situation on a heavily traveled roadway in adverse conditions." These individuals are "fine examples of the professionalism and dedication to public safety that are the cornerstone of this agency."

## Help Us Help You Better!

Most DOC staff using the CorrectNet LAN/WAN are familiar with the MIS help desk. In fact, most DOC computer users are familiar with the MIS help desk. The purpose of the Help Desk is to provide support for people who are unable to use their computers or get an application to run because of a problem (cannot remember password, problem with the computer, problem with the software, unable to print).

Believe it or not, the best way to get a prompt response when contacting the help desk is to send an e-mail. Due to the volume of phone calls received, people really should contact the Help Desk by telephone ONLY when the problem is so severe they cannot access their e-mail program. For people without access to the LAN/WAN, please leave ONE voice mail message and Help Desk personnel will respond as quickly as possible.

The MIS Help Desk truly tries to provide a valuable service to DOC computer users with a very limited staff. Please 'help us help you better' by using e-mail as your primary method for contacting the Help Desk. This will definitely improve the level of service Help Desk personnel are able to provide. And if you do not have GroupWise e-mail, just leave us one voice mail message describing your problem. We will get back to you!

MIS Help Desk:  
860.692.7695  
E-Mail Address: HelpDesk, DOC



# A Farewell Bid

Pride at Work, Aug. 31 - Sept. 14,  
p.5

The following is an excerpt of a letter submitted to the PRIDE staff from James Westberry who retired from the DOC after twenty years of service on September 1, 2003:



I hope this letter finds you and yours in Good Health and Good Spirits. I am thankful to have been given an opportunity to submit a letter expressing my thanks and appreciation to the Department staff through the agency newsletter.

I consider myself to be the Most Fortunate Individual that has ever worked for the DOC. I can say this because in my experience as an employee, and a Training Supervisor, I have had the pleasure of working with or training most of the staff in the department. I have my twenty in as of 8/26/03 and will retire on 9/1/03. I have had the benefit of "Being Around."

I started my first days as a Temporary Employee in Old Cheshire. I was in an interview with Harold McIsaac one day and the next day I was on 7&8 Galley in the North Block of Old Cheshire. The first thing that I learned was that if you showed others that you had the Right Attitude, Paid Attention and had the Will and the Determination to PERSEVERE and DO A GOOD JOB, you could make it in this type of environment. If they saw that you cared about How You Do Things. Somebody would recognize that you had POTENTIAL

and they would make it their Good Business to Help You. I had to earn the right to go to the Academy.

In my time as a C/O (9 years 4 months & 20 days) I came to understand what a Correctional Family was. I was raised by a group of senior staff, mature adults, and a bunch of guys around my age or not, that were married or not, raising children or not, but all hanging out with each other none the less. I worked a lot of overtime, I slept in the parking lot, and I've lost a best Friend, and a few good men, I've cried in the bathroom because I wanted to go home, but could not. I laughed every day in *Roll Call* because one of the Kendall Brothers would tell a joke. I learned about being A Good Man, A Good C/O, A Good Friend, A Reliable Partner. They gave me their Pearls of Wisdom and the ATTITUDE that the most important thing in this business was to Honor your COMMITMENT to your fellow staff. Be Ready to be there for them when they need you.

My extended correctional family blessed me through my growing period experience. The Job of "Corrections" is a dangerous one that requires that you risk yourself to help others, most times at a moment's notice. It is a job that you cannot complete by your self. You must have help in order to successfully complete this job. It does not matter what your job title is. We are all interconnected. We are sometimes sadly only aware of this When Tragedy Strikes and the Correctional "Blue Wave" rises to bring hope and Support for a Correctional staff Person in Need. By honoring this commitment everyday with everybody, we as individuals, our families, our friends and significant others are being taken care of and will *STAY SAFE*.

My good fortune is that I have had a lot of Correctional Family that have Trained Me and played an Active Role in helping me make it to my Twenty and Retirement. You have also made me the Best Person and the Best Training Officer that I can be. I pray that I can turn the HARD WORK, to attain Professionalism, Respect, Integrity Dignity, and Excellence and the CONFIDENCE that you have shown me throughout my career, into an asset to all that I encounter.

May the sound of keys jingling always be music to your ears for help is close by or **ON THE WAY!**

Last Tour Made, All Appears Secure and Normal.

Respectfully Submitted  
James H. Westberry Jr.  
Training Officer  
9/1/03



# Legislative Proposals



Each year the Department of Correction submits a legislative package to the General Assembly with agency specific bills and proposals designed to improve the overall function of the agency. In preparation of the next legislative session, Commissioner Lantz is soliciting the input of all employees concerning any recommendations they may wish to propose for consideration. Your input is crucial to this process. If you have any ideas or suggestions that may assist us in formulating responsible legislation, please take a few moments and fill out a Legislative Proposal Form or contact Major Semple at (860) 692-7485. All forms must be submitted prior to September 25<sup>th</sup>.

## MVP Card Recepeints

Arcari, Kenneth, Capt.	CRCI	Marinelli, Dennis Lt.	NCI
Astwood, Karl, CO	CRCI	Niderno, Bethann, Sec	NCI
Bakanowsky, William, CO	CRCC	Noyce, George, CO	CRCC
Bassett, Gary OA	BCI	Ouelette, Allison, Rec. Spec.	WCB
Bernd, Robert, Deacon	NCI	Paroza, Andrea, SST	CRCC
Borden, JoAnn, CS	CRCC	Renaud, Christopher, CO	BCI
Boucher, Denis, CO	CRCI	Sas, Robin, Sec 1	CRCC
Bradway, Brian, CC	NCI	Schmidt, William, Rec. Dir.	CRCI
Breed, Norman CO 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	NHCEO	Semmelrock, Christy, CO	CRCC
Bromley, Robert, CO	CRCC	St.Onge, David, CO	CRCI
Brunski, Daniel CO	CRCC	Sullivan, Diane Clk Typ	NCI
Cameron, Andy Rec. Dir.	NCI	Taber, Lori, Capt.	CRCC
Carrara, Robert, AFAO	CO	Wales, Preston, CO 1 <sup>st</sup> Class	WCEO
Chartier, Roger, Capt.	CRCC		
Ciesinski, Donna, SST	CRCC		
Clark, Robert, CC	McWCI		
Corl, Edward, CO	McWCI		
Cyr, Renee, CC	CRCI		
Downer, Louise Sec1	BCI		
Durham, Rich, CFSS	CRCC		
Evans, Chuck, RNC	CRCC		
Foran, Jack, HVAC	CRCC		
Fountain, Douglas, CHN	CRCC		
Holmberg, Bernine, Rec.Spec	.ECI		
Hoover, Jeffrey, CO	CRCC		
Jenkins, Michelle, Lt.	CRCC		
Joseph, Lynette, Sec 1	CRCC		
Judd, Robert, CO	CRCC		
Kaune, Nancy, CO	CRCC		
Lavinia, Robert, AA	CO		
Levitan, Jerry, Rec. Dir.	CRCI		
Locas, Danielle, CO	CRCC		

## Thank You



The Coordinators of the August 18<sup>th</sup> Blood Drive would like to thank all the staff at New Haven Correctional Center, New Haven Juvenile Center and New Haven Community Enforcement who participated in the blood drive. Of the fifty- three people that signed up to give blood, forty-three participated. The drive was a great success.

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## Chaplain Shows Community PRIDE



When not working at the Gates Correctional Institution, Chaplain Bilal Ansari is the staff organizer

with Mutual Housing Association of South Central Connecticut, a New Haven NeighborWorks organization. Recently Ansari was featured in the Summer 2003 edition of their Quarterly Newsletter "BrightIdeas" and recognized for his community organizational skills. Ansari said in the article, "I don't think being an organizer is a learned skill. It is a life experience that can be sharpened with skills." Commissioner Lantz commended Ansari for his work with the community and his ability to bring PRIDE to his neighborhood outside of the Department of Correction.

## Condolences



Warden Robert Correa and the staff of the New Haven Correctional Center are saddened to announce the passing of Major Joseph Dillon's father, who passed away on Tuesday August 29<sup>th</sup>.

# Operation Fill the Pantry

Charities in Connecticut that provide food to the needy due to the current economic state, have recently seen a marked increase in the demand for their assistance. One of the main providers, FOODSHARE, which supplies 300 programs in Hartford and Tolland counties, is now being forced to ration what it provides to food pantries. Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy has asked all facilities to take part in Operation Fill the Pantry, by setting up a food drive for non-perishable food items. This drive will run through the month of September. Food and monetary donations will be presented to FOODSHARE in early October.



# Agency Good Neighbors

## WEBSTER CI

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Principal Robert Matney and State School Teacher Carol Carbuti of the Webster Correctional Institution were part of a 'Steer Straight' presentation sponsored by the Naugatuck High School baseball camp. Approximately 30 kids ages seven to seventeen were in attendance as two inmates spoke about decision making and consequences.

## CARL ROBINSON CI

Correctional Counselor Barbara Segura recently spoke to staff at the Network Against Domestic Abuse (NADA) of North Central Connecticut in Enfield about the eight session domestic violence classes she facilitates at the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution. The NADA staff was pleased to hear that the information being taught to offenders, men charged with domestic violence, is similar to the information they (NADA) teach victims.

## YORK CI

Correction Officers Jeanette Pringle and Shawn Bridgman escorted the Community Outreach crew to the Colchester Fire Department on August 18<sup>th</sup>, to the St. James Episcopal Church in Preston on August 19<sup>th</sup>, and to the Voluntown Fire Department on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Officers' Pringle and Bridgman conducted tours of the facility for the Waterbury Youth Service's Office on August 20<sup>th</sup> and for the Bristol Juvenile Justice Center on August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Community Outreach Crew was at Camp Hazen in Chester during the week of August 25<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>.

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# Around the cell block



Ohio- Concerns are being expressed about prison medical treatment which has inmates waiting up to five days for prescriptions and 16 months for operations.



Colorado- Due to severe crowding, the Denver jail is refusing to accept offenders who have violated parole.



California- The National Park Service has now started selling boxed chunks of concrete from Alcatraz as souvenirs.



Pennsylvania- An escaped inmate assisted police in his recapture when he used his inmate ID card to check into a hotel.

# Years of Service

## 20 Years as of September 2003

Coggeshall, Raymond	Major	BCC
Meehan, Maria	OASS	CCI
Traver, Julia	Librarian	MCTSD
Phelps, Robert	CES	District 1
Stinson, Joeannah	CC	HCC
Denton, Dennis	CO	BCC

## 25 Years as of September 2003

Acas, Thomas	Lt.	GCI
Sas, John	GMO	Fac. Mgmt.-South



# Omission

Officer Timothy Murray was the recipient of a Distinguished Service Medal Award at the 2003 DOC Annual Awards Ceremony. His name was inadvertently omitted from the August 17 - 30, 2003 issue of PRIDE that listed the award recipients.

