

1968-2008

40

Years of Excellence
in Public Safety
Through Staff
Professionalism



DOC Supports the Hundred Club

Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz has donated half of the money raised through the annual Commissioner's Cup to the Hundred Club of Connecticut.

At the Club's recent annual gathering, Commissioner presented a check for \$1,500 to the organization president.

The Hundred Club provides financial assistance to the families of police officers, firefighters and corrections officers who lose their lives in the line of duty.

During its 30 years of existence, the Club has aided the families of 95 police officers, 126 firefighters and 6 corrections officers who made the supreme sacrifice. Gifts totaling over \$8,000,000 have been made to these families. *see 100% page 2*



Commissioner Lantz receives a plaque of appreciation from the Hundred Club.

RT Modernization, A Team Effort

The Connecticut Department of Correction is investing in reforming our business processes and replacing the existing computer system with a new, state of the art system. This initiative will simplify your duties and reduce time to complete tasks. It will standardize and automate tasks eliminating the redundancies that the current processes and systems demand. In the future, all relevant DOC inmate information will be available instantaneously and viewable in several different ways tailored to your needs. Also, there will be a reduction in the number of paper documents and forms required.

To help accomplish this, we have brought together staff from various disciplines across the agency. This includes Correctional Officers, Correctional Counselors, Counselor Supervisors, Parole Officers, MIS Programmers, Database Administrators and Records Specialists along with qualified consultants. This group is called the Correctional Modernization Team (CMT).

The CMT is focussed on reviewing and recommending innovative changes to our current business processes.

see CMT page 3

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 reintegration.

October 11 - November 12, 2008

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

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Theresa C. Lantz
Commissioner

Web address: www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information

Office telephone:

860.692-7780

Fax: 860.692.7783

100% Support from page 1

“I believe it is crucial that as an agency we support an organization such as this, that is going to insure the members of our correctional family are looked after,” said Commissioner Lantz.

The Hundred Club will provide the families of firefighters, police and correction officers an immediate death benefit of \$10,000, a review of the fixed indebtedness of our new families and has the authority, where appropriate, to recommend to the board financial relief for individual families concerning heavy mortgage or other debt service payments. Each college student is eligible for up to \$25,000 yearly for tuition and other educational expenses, four weeks of camp for every child between the ages of 5 and 16, each child receives a \$200 U.S.Bond each year on his or her birthday, up to and including age 18, and a holiday greeting four times per year, on Thanksgiving, a turkey; at Christmas, a check for \$750.00 to each widow and \$250.00 for each child under 19 years of age; and boxes of candy on Valentine’s Day and Mother’s Day.

The Club also honored the Commissioner for her continuing support and ongoing membership. A plaque of appreciation was presented to her to the applause of the gathered membership. More information about the Hundred Club can be obtained through its website, <http://www.hundredclubofct.org/index.html>

Mayor Perez Visits Enfield CI



Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez visited students at Enfield Correctional Institution on Tuesday, September 30. Drawing from his personal experiences, Mayor Perez told his student audience that hard work and determination can overcome real challenges in life. Answering concerns raised by some of the students, Mayor Perez informed them that having to carry the stigma of one’s incarceration until you can prove yourself is not a reason for not trying. However, having passion for your work and an attainable plan with which to reach your goals will sustain you through the initial rough times, he added.

Students asked the Mayor a variety of questions ranging from employment to the community resources available to them. The discussion also touched upon ways in which the inmates could positively contribute to their communities upon discharge.

Keeping up With The Joneses

Congratulations to newly appointed Probation Officer Craig E. Jones Jr. who took part in the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) Probation Officer Graduation ceremony held on March 28, 2008 at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development. Jones is the son of Department of Correction Parole Manager Craig E. Jones, Sr.



Pictured are from left to right District 7 Senator John A. Kissel, Judicial Branch Executive Director William Carbone, Newly appointed Probation Officer Craig E. Jones Jr., DOC Parole Manager Craig E. Jones Sr., Chief Court Administrator Honorable Judge Barbara Quinn.

Winter Clothing Drive

As part of her requirements to earn her Bachelor's degree from the School of Human Services at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, Lieutenant Yadira Otero, and her classmates, have organized a winter clothing drive.

Now through November 17, staff members are being asked to donate, new and slightly used, winter hats, gloves and socks to benefit the House of Bread Day Shelter in Hartford. Boxes for the donations can be found in the main lobby of each facility.



Lt. Yadira Otero

CMT Update from page 1

These changes are a required first step to delivering a future system that will specifically meet the needs of CT DOC. Business Process improvement is a joint effort accomplished by conducting facility site visits and meeting with various staff from all disciplines. The team meticulously documents current processes and the challenges faced by staff in their daily duties. The team brainstorms in collaboration with facility staff and develops insightful new ideas and solutions.

With input from facility staff, CMT has developed and implemented its first set of changes. A notable change is the Inmate Overview Sheet. This sheet contains a photo along with key information, such as the Risk and Need Scores, Special Management Concerns, Basic Demographics and Court/Transfer information. Initially the sheet was intended for Court and Routine Transfers to eliminate the redundancy of paperwork, ultimately saving staff time and material. A pilot program was conducted at Hartford CC in August 2008 with great success and positive feedback from facility staff, CTU and the Judicial Marshals. Statewide use of the form was initiated on September 15, 2008. Since implementation, several disciplines have utilized this sheet for additional purposes.

Currently the team is reviewing processes for Admitting and Releasing, Property, Classification, Pardon and Parole. The team will continue to make site visits, and meet with staff in these areas to further their goal.

The CMT project team wants your ideas and feedback. Please log on to the DOC Intranet Web Page to complete a survey on the inmate overview sheet. Look at the left side of the page under Main Menu and click on the Employee Bulletin Board link. Click on the CMT link. Under the title bar, click on Inmate Overview Survey. Click on the Click here for Survey option. This will bring you to a brief survey where you can give your suggestions/comments anonymously. We look forward to your comments. Our future is the enrichment of our people, processes and technology!

Announcements

Willard Cybulski Fundraiser

- On Friday, October 24, 2008, the WCCI QWL/EOQ Committee sponsored an Italian Luncheon for staff in memoriam of Reverend Jose Miralles. The committee members donated all the food and beverages. All of the proceeds raised, \$635.00, were donated to his surviving family. He is and always will be in the hearts and prayers of his family here at WCCI.

Bridgeport CC Fundraiser

-Warden Ford would like to thank all Bridgeport CC staff for supporting a successful fundraiser for Officer Rhonda McNickels and Officer Teresa Binette-\$1,212.00 was raised.

Congratulations

-Captain Stanley Parker, third shift commander at Osborn CI, recently observed his 21st anniversary of state service. Mr. Parker was hired on 7/17/87

Bridgeport CC Christmas Party

December 6, 2008

8:00 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.

\$50.00 per person

Open Bar, Appetizers and Dinner

Anthony's Ocean View Rest.

450 Lighthouse Road

New Haven, CT

For tickets: Captain Keel,
C/O's P. Daniels, Eason,
D. Smith & P. Wilson or
call 203-579-6131

College Fair Scheduled for Maloney

Around the Cell Block



Location: Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development, Building #2
Date: November 12, 2008
Time: 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Representatives from the following institutions will attend:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Briarwood College | Mitchell College |
| Capital Community College | Norwalk Comm. College |
| Charter Oak State College | Post University |
| Tunxis Community College | Saint Joseph College |
| Eastern Connecticut State Univ. | University of Bridgeport |
| Manchester Community College | NaugatuckValley Comm.College |
| Connecticut Comm. College System | University of Phoenix |

There will also be a project manager from Allied Health and Smart Grants available for information along with a Workforce Development Coordinator from the Connecticut Community College System.

*Please note that there will be **no inmate workers** on the premises; therefore we encourage staff to bring their family members that may be interested in attending college in the near future.*

***** YOU MUST USE PERSONAL TIME TO ATTEND *****

**For more information please contact:
CCS Heidi Palliardi at 203-271-5190**

Vermont- By state law all inmates can vote unless they have been convicted of election fraud.

Michigan- The Reverend Edward Pinkney is running for Congress despite being in prison on a probation violation for election fraud.

Texas- A statewide shakedown has netted 61 weapons, 52 tobacco products, 14 discoveries of money and 120 cell phones, one of which death row inmates used to make 2,800 calls.

South Carolina- The state prison system wants to jam cell phone signals to stop their use by inmates, but the plan is being opposed by the Federal Communication Commission.

Condolences



Director Foltz is saddened to announce the passing of Mark A. Lemery, husband of Lisa Lemery.



Director David Batten is saddened to announce the passing of GMO Stephen Lukaszewski's son, Steven J. Lukas.



Warden Strange and staff at Osborn C. I. are saddened to inform of the recent passing of the sister of Correctional Counselor Dennis Morgan, Tandy Denise Smith of Lakeland, Florida.

Donations in Steven's memory may be made to:

Steve's Memorial Fund
c/o Marc & Ruth Holly
P.O. Box 1303
Warren, MA 01083

*Total
Supervised
Population
on
November 5, 2008*

23,664

*On November 5, 2007
the population was
23,835*



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 any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692-7554. This article was written by Jay Harder, PFE1, District 1 FM&E. Jay.Harder@po.state.ct.us

Comets, What They Are and Where They Come From

Last Winter I went out one evening with a cousin and my homemade telescope to a remote site in the Berkshires of Massachusetts just to get a glimpse of the Comet Holmes. As the evening grew darker, I could make out in the North Eastern sky a light grey fuzzy ball which shouldn't be there and knew immediately it had to be the Comet Holmes. My initial sighting was by naked eye but a quick look with binoculars confirmed it to be my primary reason for observing that night. Once my scope was set up I was able to look at Comet Holmes under high magnification and what a sight. If you can imagine my field of view was about the size of a quarter and the

comet was about the size of a dime within that quarter. Amateur astronomers had been observing Comet Holmes as a very faint comet passing around the sun and heading back out into the solar system when it suddenly exploded and became a million times brighter in literally a few days. There was a bright grey core and then a huge, what appeared to be a cloud, around the core. I could see background stars shining through the cloud almost to the core. This was one of those "once in a lifetime" events in astronomy you will never forget.

I became so fascinated with Comet Holmes I decided to do a little research on it and, in turn, comets

in general. What are Comets? I'm sure most people know they are "dirty snowballs" but where did the "dirty snow" come from? The answer is, when our solar system started to coalesce from a huge cloud of gas and dust about 4.5 billion years ago there was, among other elements, water in the form of ice. As the planets took shape they swept up all the elements in their neighborhoods including the water. Most of the planets in our solar system show evidence of some form of water. In the area of our solar system where planets did not form, space out beyond Neptune called the "Kuiper Belt" and even further into space in an area astronomers refer to as the Van Oort Cloud, the ice started to clump together along with whatever debris was there. Dust, rock, ice, etc. Astronomers today feel there could be as many as one trillion comets in the Oort Cloud. In the early formation of Earth it was bombarded with comets and scientists believe that is where much of the water on Earth came from.



The Comet Holmes

Brooklyn C.I.'s Haunted House

New England has a long and hallowed (excuse the pun) tradition of spirits, ghosts, and haunted houses. So it should be no surprise that the Department of Correction also lays claim to its very own haunted house, and its very own ghost. At Brooklyn Correctional Institution the mention of the name “Walter” brings, at best, instant recognition to all that work there, and, true fear to staff who swear to have encountered him.

As many legends go, hard facts are difficult to come by. The consensus of those questioned at Brooklyn is that the spirit of Walter inhabits the attic of the old Windham County Jail building. Built in 1896, prisoners have not been housed there since the early 1990’s when the new facility was built.

“You could not pay me enough money to go in there alone at night,” said Correctional Plumber Dennis Sposato. A 24-year employee of the Department, most of which have been at Brooklyn, Sposato has had several strange encounters in the old jail.

Some say that Walter was an inmate, who committed suicide during his imprisonment. However, Sposato claims that Walter was not an inmate, but rather a county employee who died while at work. Many of the spooky tales such as sounds of footsteps, lights being turned on mysteriously, or unintelligible voices in the distance can be explained away by any number of logical explanations (wind, overactive imagination, woodland creatures seeking shelter, etc.). Yet to those who have experienced these phenomenon, there is no dissuading them of what they believe.



Even the Jail's Sign is “creepy”

“That place creeps me out,” said Correctional Counselor Michael Shikoluk. Approximately two years ago, Shikoluk, a newly hired Correctional Officer, was inside the old jail, on second shift, conducting a fire watch because the electrical fire alarm system had failed. Armed with only a flashlight, alone in the dark building, Shikoluk heard beeping coming from the abandoned control center. As he approached to investigate, the beeping

stopped-he returned to his post. Three more times he heard beeping; each time as he approached the noises ceased. “There was no one else in the building,” he added.



The attic of the old Brooklyn jail, where a seemingly empty chair greets you

Among the most chilling of “ghost” stories comes from Mr. Sposato, who several years ago found himself in the attic of the building. Something caught his eye outside the window, and he turned to look at it. “All of a sudden I felt a hot hand on my shoulder, it was so hot if felt like it was almost burning me,” Sposato said. “I got out of there as fast as I could.”

Though many of the stories are downplayed as “old wives tales” by some of the staff, there are those who are reluctant to go into the building alone, even during the daytime.

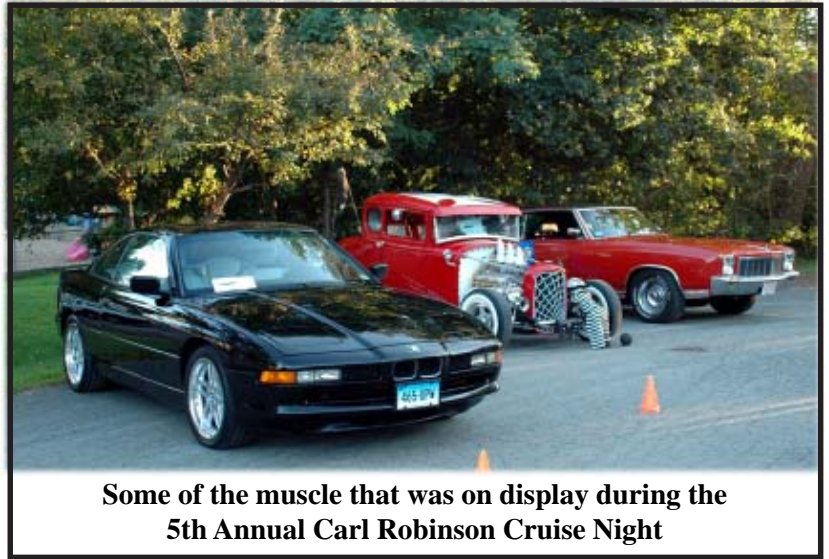
For his willingness to talk about his experiences in the old jail, Sposato, has taken his share of good-natured ribbing from his coworkers over the years. “I don’t care if people think I’m crazy,” he said. “I know what I’ve seen, I know what I felt.”

5th Annual Carl Robinson Cruise Night

For the fifth consecutive year, Rich's Drive-In in Somers, CT hosted the annual Carl Robinson CI Cruise Night. It was a rockin', frolickin' fun time for those who attended. Several antique vehicles and muscle cars, along with a variety of motorcycles, were on display in the parking lot for everyone to enjoy. Carter Colby, the owner of Rich's prepared a special menu which included "Jail House Hamburgers", "Cell #9 Nachos", "Seg Unit Salsa", "Handcuff Hot Dogs", "I'm Innocent French Fries", etc.

Rock and Roll Music from the 50's complemented the menu and vehicles on display. Much appreciation and thanks go to not only Mr. Colby, but also to the following

for their generous donations: gift certificates from TSI/Harley Davidson; Buona Vita Restaurant; Lil Buddy's; Big Y Supermarket; and three donated oil changes from Firestone of Enfield. In addition thanks and appreciation to the members of the QWL and Diversity Committees for their contributions from Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks. All attendees had a great time and look forward to next year's event.



Comets continued from page 5

Occasionally one of these comets in the Kuiper Belt or Oort Cloud gets nudged out of its orbit around the sun by the gravitational pull of one of the outer planets or in collisions with asteroids or other comets. To give you an idea of the size of the Oort Cloud, astronomers feel that even a passing star could push a comet out if its orbit around our sun in the far reaches of the Oort Cloud. The sun's nearest star neighbors are around 4.2 light years away. A light year is 5,878,625,373,183 miles, multiply that by 4 and you will have a feel for the distances I am talking about here. This distance is comparable to driving from New York, NY to Los Angeles, CA almost 8 billion times. Once a comet is "nudged" out of its orbit, the sun's mass and gravity will exert its affect on the comet and draw it into the inner solar system, around the sun and then will be thrown back out again to the Kuiper Belt or Oort Cloud, unless of course it collides with something along the way (planet). Comets that only make it to the Kuiper Belt will most likely reenter the inner solar system someday and are called "short period" comets, Halley's Comet is an example. Comets thrown back into the Oort Cloud are called "long period" comets and will most likely never be seen again.

Remember Comet Holmes, is a short period comet and has been through the inner solar system many times in the past but it's normally so dim it wasn't observed. Over a two day period last October it intensified in brightness by almost 1 million times and later was briefly the largest object in our solar system, even larger than the sun. Scientists feel this was due to either a collision with an asteroid or it erupted because of internal gas pressures. Comets like this only happen a few times in your lifetime, if you're lucky, and I would highly encourage you to take the opportunity to view one when it presents itself. Anyone interested in amateur astronomy or would just like to take a peak through a telescope can contact me and I can lead you to a club or an event where the public is encouraged to attend.

I would like to ask one last question to you, the reader, to test your knowledge of our local solar system, more importantly the moon. Does the moon rotate on its axis? The answer might surprise you, a little clue: the moon always presents the same side towards the earth. If you think you know the answer or are stumped, my office phone number is 860-253-3648 or email me at my email address listed at the top of the article.

MVP'S

Akdemir, Faith	Gates	Ford, Wayne Capt.	Gates	Michael Quinn CO	WCCI
Albrighton, Ross CO	Gates	Frasco, John CTO	NCI	Michonski, Dean CO	MYI
Artz, Kevin CO	MWCI	Gallo, Jeff CO	MYI	Miller, Gordon CO	MYI
Aughran, Mike CFSSM	YCI	Gandolfo, Roberto CO	WCCI	Milling, Lynn DW	MWCI
Avery, Ron CFSSIII	YCI	Gillespie, James CO	Gates	Mix, David Voc. Ed. Ins.	ECI
Baggott, April SST	Gates	Gineo, Greg, CPSF	NCI	Morgan, Adam Lt.	WCCI
Barrett, Sean CO.	WCCI	Goodshell, Robert CHN	WCCI	Moro, Donna CCT	NCI
Barry, Steven Lt.	MYI	Goudreault, Paul CO	CRCI	Murray, Tim CO	Gates
Barton, Ken CFSSIII	YCI	Green, Robert CO	Gates	Murry, Marysol OA	ECI
Begnoche, Nancy Sec. II	NCI	Greene, Barry CO	Gates	Neff, Lynne Serv. Mgr.	CO
Bellerose, Edward CC	NCI	Griswold, Eric, Lt.	Gates	Newton, Timothy, Capt.	WCCI
Benoit, Kim CC	Gates	Guerrera, Jason CO	MYI	Nicolescu, Sorin C.O.	WCCI
Bernd, Robert Chaplain	NCI	Gumkowski, Dayne CO	Gates	Niderno, Ronald Mail Spvr.	WCCI
Bishop, Timothy CO	MYI	Haesche, Jacquie SST	MYI	Nieves, Alba CO	BCC
Blais, Christopher CO	NCI	Harris, James, CO	Gates	Norstrom, Mary Ann Lt.	Gates
Bradway, Brian, CS	NCI	Hartnett, Robert Lt.	NCI	Oliver, Tasha, Sec. I	CO
Brown, Jacqueline CO	BCC	Hensch, Patrick Lt	Gates	Pace, Michael CO	Gates
Brunetti, William CO	NCI	Hernandez, Ernest CO	MYI	Padillam Moises CO	MYI
Brunton, Mark CO	MWCI	Hill, Eladonis CO	Bergin	Palmer, Brian CO	CRCC
Bryant, Stephanie Sec.I	CO	Hobby, Jennifer, Sec. I	CO	Pandolfi, Barbara Phys.	Gates
Bujnicki, Brian CO	MWCI	Ikem, Samuel CO	CRCI	Parker, Melvinia Chpln.	Gates
Butkiewicz, David Capt.	NCI	Irwin, Shawn CTO	MYI	Parks, Terri OA	BCC
Byrd, Latrice Lt.	MYI	Jackson, Brian Lt.	NCI	Pasieka, David CO	CRCC
Caban, Jimmie CO	MYI	Jacobs, Ladawn CO	MYI	Patterson, Marvin CO	NHCC
Carey, James CO	MYI	Jarvis, Stacey Lt.	Gates	Payne, Jerome CO	NHCC
Carleton, Michael CO	NCI	Jimenez, Jorge CO	CO	Pearson, Stephen CO	Gates
Casey, Thomas Deacon	Gates	Johnson, Bruck Cpt.	Gates	Penn, Theresa Cpt.	CRCC
Casey, Tom Deacon	Gates	Johnson, Lynia CO	MWCI	Perry, Kathi-Rae Sec. II	YCI
Cashman, Kevin CO	MWCI	Johnston, Katherine CO	NCI	Petchark, Charles CO	Gates
Champagne, Lorry – Sec. II	CRCI	Jones, Charlatta, CC	Gates	Peter Reardon CO	WCCI
Champion, Angel CO	Gates	Jones, Dwayne CO	MYI	Peters, Daniel CO	MWCI
Cheeks, Patrician CO	CRCI	Jones, Richard, CO	NCI	Peterson, Scott CC	NCI
Chmielorz, Steven Lt.	NCI	Kane, Michael CO	NCI	Picone, Sam CC	ECI
Christie, Rochelle Sec.I	CO	Kelley, John Capt.	MYI	Piela, David Lt.	MYI
Cieslukowski, Donald CC	Gates	Kidd, David, CO	NCI	Pierre, Duane Med.Tech	MCSTD
Clayton, Michele FAM	CO	King, Jason CO	MYI	Pirro, Maria Prnpcl.	Gates
Cook, James CO	MYI	Kitt, Tawanda, CO	NCI	Pope, Johnathan CO	NCI
Corcella, Anthony Capt.	Gates	Knapp, Robert Cpt.	MWCI	Pope, Reggie CS	ECI
Cote, Renee CO	Gates	Kotiadis, Irene CC	OCI	Pope, Timothy CO	CRCI
Couture, Brian CO	NCI	Kozikowski, Nick CO	MYI	Porter, William PFE	Gates
Cramer, Teresa CO	Bergin	Krob, Jeremiah CO	NCI	Preston, Julius CO	Gates
Daigle, Tim CO	NCI	Lacoss, Glenn CO	Bergin	Price, Maurice CO	Gates
Daire, Rohan CO	NCI	Landrette, Dean CO	MYI	Quinones, Nole, CO	MYI
Darby, Charles Voc. Inst.	WCCI	Lane, Daryl CO	Gates	Quirion, Jeffery CO	CRCI
David, Frank CO	Bergin	Laverty, Sean CFSSII	CO	Rabell, David CO	CRCC
DeNote, Greg CC	WCCI	Lesinski, William Lt.	Gates	Randall, Bonnie CO	YCI
Deshaies, Albert CO	MYI	Lidzbarski, Darlene RN	MYI	Randall, Broderick CO	NHCC
Donovan, Jon CO	NCI	Lopez, Osvaldo, CO	NCI	Randolph, Elizabeth CO	Bergin
Dossat, Randy Lt.	Gates	Lorenzetti, Stacy CC	MYI	Reeves, Michael CO	OCI
Downey, Cathy HR Spec.	CO	Lukas, Elaine CHN	WCCI	Regan, Matt Cpt.	CRCI
Durhan, Rich CFSSIII	YCI	Maloney, Jeannette HR Spec.	CO	Reid, Charlene CO	MYI
Dwyer, Norma CCT	NCI	Martin, Viveca Lt.	MYI	Reynolds, John CFSS2	CRCC
Estanislau, Connie CT	NCI	Massop, Marlone CO	NCI	Richardson, Jaime CC	Gates
Fabiano, Joseph CO	MYI	McCann, Chad CO	MYI	Roberts, Angelo CO	NHCC
Fargo, Jeffrey, CC	NCI	McCarthy, Caryn Princ.	MYI	Robinson, Kenyatta CO	CRCI
Feitel, Jennifer, Lt.	MYI	Mejil, Marco CO	MYI	Rodriguez, Robert CO	BCC
Fisher, Michael Lt.	MWCI	Messier, Dave CO	NCI	Roman, David CO	MYI