



Connecticut
Department of Correction

P.R.I.D.E. *at* Work

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

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.

To the Best Correctional Professionals in the Country

May 3-9 is a week that is now designated for the recognition of many among our ranks. Based on a U.S. House of Representatives resolution in 2007, the first week in May is National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. In addition, it has also been set aside as National Nurses' Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Regardless of the name, it is perhaps now more important than ever during these difficult economic times to recognize the contributions of the men and women of the Connecticut Department of Correction who serve with distinction in one of the most challenging professions in all of public service. You perform your daily duties in a demanding environment, continuously exceeding your field's high standards, as well as the public's expectations.

I want to personally extend my heartfelt gratitude and admiration to each of you for your dedication and devotion to vocations that require a unique brand of bravery and personal PRIDE.

I would like to also add my thanks to the members of your family and close friends who provide love and support. It is this vital support that enables correctional employees to perform these difficult and dangerous jobs with such professionalism and competence.

Going forward, much is uncertain save one thing, the public will always be able to depend on the dedication of the finest correctional employees in the nation to meet, and exceed any and all future challenges.

You are a standard to which other correctional systems strive - I would not trade our staff for any other in the country. I am honored to serve as your Commissioner.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Theresa C. Lantz

March 24, 2009
through
May 4, 2009

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New Director - “Acting” No More



**Dr. Daniel Bannish being sworn-in by
Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz**

Dr. Daniel Bannish was officially sworn-in as the Director of Health and Addiction Services for the Connecticut Department of Correction during a ceremony held in the Commissioner’s office on Tuesday, April 21.

Among a small gathering of family, Department administrators, and coworkers, Commissioner Theresa C. Lantz administered the oath to Dr. Bannish who had served as Acting Director since the retirement of the previous director, Patricia Ottolini, in July of last year.

A nationwide search was conducted to fill the position. “The fact that you were chosen above candidates from across the country, speaks very highly of the job you are doing,” Commissioner Lantz told the newly appointed Bannish.

Dr. Bannish joined the Department in October of 1994 as a Supervising Psychologist I at the Walker Reception and Special Management Unit. He was part of a multidisciplinary clinical

team that conducted psychological assessments of newly sentenced offenders as well as providing crisis intervention and developing treatment plans for those inmates. He was also involved in cognitive testing and sex offender screening, as well as the development and implementation of quality control procedures.

In 2000, Dr. Bannish was promoted to Supervising Psychologist II and was assigned administrative and clinical supervision of the multidisciplinary clinical team at the Osborn Correctional Institution, which provided 120 mental health beds, eight acute beds and incarcerated an additional 350 outpatient offenders with mental health needs. In addition to assessments and parole evaluations, he was also responsible for training clinical, health service and custody staff regarding the supervision and treatment of inmates with mental health issues.

Dr. Bannish was elevated to the role of Health Service Program Director in May of 2002. His primary duties involved monitoring a \$100-million contract with the University of Connecticut, Correctional Managed Health Care for the provision of all medical, dental and mental health treatment of some 23,000 offenders, both in the state’s correctional facilities as well as under community supervision. Additionally, Dr. Bannish was tasked with insuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it pertained to disabled inmates, coordinating federal grant resources and research with other state agencies and enhancing programming for sex offenders in support of public safety.

Prior to his correctional career, Dr. Bannish provided individual and family psychotherapy in private practice and in community settings where he worked with adults, adolescents and clients returning to the community from a state hospital setting.

Dr. Bannish has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and achieved his Psy. D. in Clinical Psychology from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in 1984.

Buffalo Soldiers – Honoring the Past

For some the term “Buffalo Soldier” brings to mind a classic reggae tune by the legendary Bob Marley. However, for a small group of Department of Correction employees, being a Buffalo Soldier gives them an opportunity to honor the contributions and sacrifices minorities have made in helping to shape the nation.

Ten years ago a ceremonial unit of Buffalo Soldiers was formed by Robert Gray, who has since retired from the department. Other members of the group include Correction Officers Henry Agudelo, Gary G. Boyd Sr., Willie Jackson (all from the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution), and Captain Ronald Pittman of the Willard–Cybulski Correctional Institution.

For members of the unit, it is all about honoring the past by raising awareness. “We don’t want anyone to forget the contributions that minorities made in the history of our country,” said Correction Officer Willie Jackson dressed in the traditional uniform of the Buffalo Soldier. “I wear the uniform for the soldiers who wanted to fight for their country but weren’t allowed to,” he added.

Buffalo Soldiers began as a nickname given to all-black Army regiments that were formed in 1866. Shortly after the Civil War, Congress authorized the formation of the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 38th, 39th, 40th, and 41st Infantry Regiments: Six all black peacetime units. Later the four infantry regiments were merged into the 24th and 25th Infantries.



**Members of the Buffalo Soldiers Unit from left to right:
Henry Agudelo, Willie Jackson, Gary G. Boyd Sr.**

There is some controversy as to where the name originated. Some sources assert that the nickname was given out of respect for the fierce fighting ability of the 10th cavalry. Officer Agudelo subscribes to the legend that Native Americans called the black cavalry troops buffalo soldiers because of their dark curly hair, which resembled a buffalo’s coat. The term became a generic term for all African-American soldiers. Buffalo Soldiers, including those from the Department of Correction down through the years, have worn the name with pride. Although Agudelo is Puerto Rican, he feels the unit symbolizes the struggles of all minorities-not just those of blacks.

Prominent among those blazing treacherous trails of the Wild West were the Buffalo Soldiers of the U.S. Army. These soldiers were charged with and responsible for escorting settlers, cattle herds, and railroad crews. The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments also conducted campaigns against tribes on a western frontier that extended from Montana in the Northwest to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in the Southwest. Throughout the era of the Indian Wars, approximately twenty percent of the U.S. Cavalry troopers were black, and they fought over 177 engagements.

As a group, the Buffalo Soldiers from the Department of Correction participate in reenactments and as many as six parades a year, most recently marching in Springfield’s Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. They also have visited schools to educate children about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

“We take a lot of pride in being part of this group,” said Gary G. Boyd Sr. “We’ve all worn different uniforms, but this one is special.”

CRCI Has New Program Building



On Monday, April 13, 2009 the new Program Building was officially dedicated at Carl Robinson Correctional Institution. Commissioner Lantz and members of her senior staff were present for the ceremony, with Commissioner Lantz doing the honor of cutting the ribbon.

Around the Cell Block



California- The last imprisoned member of the 1970s-era Symbionese Liberation Army has been cleared to serve his parole in Illinois.

Rhode Island- The chairman of a privatized jail where a Chinese immigrant was allegedly abused before he died has been fired for publicly comparing the facility to the Guantanamo Bay prison camp.

Utah- Prison officials say they are monitoring a convicted murderer's mail and telephone calls after an alleged confession and mustache hair from the man turned up on an online auction site that specializes in so-called "murderabilia."

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION & DUNKIN DONUTS

TIP A COP FUNDRAISING EVENT TO BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, CT

DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 29TH
6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Contact your facility's Torch Run Coordinator
for information and location of
your specific facility/department event.

Special Olympics, Connecticut
"Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives".

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
May 4, 2009
23, 333
On May 4, 2008
the population was
23,786**

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 has been written by Plant Facilities Engineer I, Sam Kotsch, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 203-806-2664.

Fixing Lawn Problems

Did you know fixing common lawn problems is easy? Start with this question – Should I repair or replace my whole lawn?

When evaluating the problems with your lawn it can be difficult to decide whether to repair it or just dig it up and start all over. If your lawn is thin, full of weeds or just filled with ugly brown patches, these problems can ruin the appearance of your property and diminish your curb appeal.

Short of having your whole lawn rototilled, here are some ways to improve the look of your lawn: Patching or repairing a lawn is called for if 70% of your lawn is in good shape – meaning the grass seems fairly well adapted to the conditions and your maintenance schedule of mowing, watering and fertilizing.

If annual weeds are an issue, then patching comes into play. Annual weeds such as crabgrass and dandelions spread by reseeding themselves every year. Applying a pre-emergent herbicide in the spring and then reseeding bare areas that occur can control these weeds. If your lawn is thin or has brown patches, you may have soil issues or grubs.



An example of a Grub damaged lawn

There are two types of grubs. One is the Black Turf grub and the other is the White grub, which is a catchall term for the larvae of many mid-summer insects such as the Japanese Beetle, rose chaffers and the crane fly, just to name a few. Grub damage is easy to see, round brown spots in early spring or fall. To confirm that you have grubs, lift a 1 foot, square area of your lawn in late spring or early fall. If you count more than six to ten of these C-shaped ¼” to ¾” plump white grass killers, it’s time to start control methods. Head down to your favorite home improvement store and pick up some grub control and simply follow the package directions.

If reseeding or patching does not seem to work, it may be time to ask yourself if grass is the right ground cover for your lawn. For example, in a low lying area you might be better off planting wild flowers giving you a natural look and flowers to bring into your home. A slope area is hard to mow and is a good candidate for planting ground covers that like good drainage and hot dry conditions of full sun. If shade is the issue, use of shade loving plants or mulch will be beneficial and help the soil as well.

Before you start any lawn project, get as much information as you can. Your local nursery, books or the Internet are all great places to start, however, look around your neighborhood. Do you see a really great lawn? Reach out to the people next door to see what they are doing. They may be happy to share their tips as your weed / grub free lawn can only benefit them as well.

DoC in the Military

Garner CI Welcomes Home Returning Veterans



L to R: Officer Anthony Marlak, Captain Debra Synott, Warden James Dzurenda and Officer Jed Carter

Warden James Dzurenda and Captain Debra Synott recently welcomed back to work Officers Jed Carter and Anthony Marlak. Warden Dzurenda thanked them both for their service to our country and presented them with cards and gift certificates that were made possible by peer donations.

Sergeant 1st Class Carter returned home after serving a year in Iraq. Sargeant Carter has been with the Army Reserves since 1996 and this was his second tour overseas. He also served one year in Afghanistan in 2002. Officer Carter has been with the DOC for 5 years.

Staff Sergeant Marlak joined the Air Force Reserves in 2001 shortly after 9/11/2001. He has had four missions to Iraq, two to Afghanistan and his most recent tour overseas was to Aliasalem, Kuwait in 2007. Staff Sargeant Marlak just returned home after a 45-day rotation at the Norfolk Navel Base. Officer Marlak has been with the DOC for nine months.

Fire Fights

Officer Mark Czmyr of the York Correctional Institution recently returned from military duty. Officer Czmyr's latest deployment was on Sept. 8, 2008 to North Iraq at Kirkuk Regional Air Base. Master Sergeant Czmyr was handpicked by the Fire Chief to serve as second in command. As Deputy Fire Chief Mark Czmyr managed and lead a diverse group of 39 fire fighters from five bases into one cohesive team ready to respond to all incidents. Msgt. Czmyr managed two key department programs, Fire Prevention and the Fire Alarm Community Center. As the Fire Prevention Manager he ensured Kirkuk Airforce Base maintained compliance with fire safety codes in all buildings and all facilities. The Prevention Program was vital to the life safety of the base personnel.

The Fire Alarm Communication Centers handled numerous emergency calls while streamling and reducing response times. Emergency lines were put



Correction Officer Mark Czmyr in Iraq

in areas of the base where there were no emergency phone communications. This measure ensured emergencies were reported in a timely manner ensuring rapid responses and improving life safety.

see Czmyr Returns Page 7

Years of State Service

20 years as of April 2009

Name	Title	Facility	Hired
Bilotto, Anthony	CO	BCC	4/7/1989
Eason, Kevin	CO	BCC	4/7/1989
Santiago, Billy	CO	BCC	4/7/1989
Stewart, Robin	CO	BCC	4/7/1989
Roswess, Leroy	CO	CRCI	4/7/1989
Buster, Pamela	PO II	CO	4/21/1989
Sikora, Joseph	CO	CCI	4/7/1989
Caple, Charles	CO	CRCC	4/7/1989
Petrello, Ruth	CO	CRCC	4/7/1989
Princevalle, Phillip	Lt.	CRCC	4/7/1989
Eason, William	Cpt.	GCI	4/7/1989
Ford, Wayne	Cpt.	GCI	4/7/1989
Campbell, Maurice	CO	HCC	4/7/1989
Dileo, Thomas	CO	HCC	4/7/1989
Heath, Gary	CO	HCC	4/7/1989
Lawrence, Winston	CO	HCC	4/7/1989
Wolliston, Erick	CO	HCC	4/7/1989
McGrail, Thomas	FSS III	HCC	4/21/1989
Grenier, Mark	CC	MWCI	4/7/1989
Vassell, Michael	CO	MWCI	4/7/1989
Preston, Bobby	CO	MYI	4/7/1989
Chapman, Antonio	CO	NCI	4/7/1989
Garner, Kathleen	AA	NCI	4/21/1989
Lomax, Carol	CO	WCI	4/7/1989
Cooter, Garry	CO	WCCI	4/7/1989
Devenitch, John	CO	WCCI	4/7/1989
Rodriguez, Jose	CO	WCCI	4/7/1989
Woods, Bobby	CO	WCCI	4/7/1989
Goss, Paul	CC	WCCI	4/21/1989
Ancy Joseph	CO	WCCI	4/21/1989
Lilly, Cheryl	CO	YCI	4/7/1989
Miceli, Stephen	CO	YCI	4/7/1989
Pemberton, Samuel	CO	YCI	4/7/1989
Wolf, Ellen	CO	YCI	4/7/1989
Mitchell, Myla	Ind.Sup. I	YCI	4/28/1989

Employee with 25 Years of Service as of April 2009

Hughes, Timothy	FSS III	MYI	4/27/1984
Deveau, Robert	FSM	WCI	4/13/1984

Czmyr Returns

from page 6

As the Computer Systems Administrator, Msgt. Czmyr set up and managed 40 fire fighter accounts. This allowed the fire fighters access to information needed to perform their duties.

Msgt. Czmyr trained local fire fighters from the City of Kirkuk as well as Iraqi Air Force Fighters. Over 75 fire fighters were trained in Search & Rescue Techniques, First Aid, and proper operation of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), Fire Control Tactics and proper wear of protective equipment. During the four-month deployment to Kirkuk, the fire department, which officer Czmyr was associated with, responded to over 233 emergency responses.

The staff of York CI welcomes back Officer Czmyr, and commends him for his dedication to his unit and this Country.

Heartfelt Thanks

Warden Ricks and her family would like to thank everyone for all of kind words, cards and expressions of sympathy with the passing of her Father. It was truly comforting during that difficult time.

Port of Call - Groton

The Department of Correction's Recruitment Unit in partnership with the Groton Submarine base and the Connecticut Department of Labor has been going on base semi-monthly to do a presentation on "Interviewing Skills". Human Resource Specialists Michael Vasile (formerly Colonel see Pride May 13, 2007) and Patricia Meskers (who originally recruited Vasile at Camp Rell) meet with the transitioning military personnel to provide them with tips on writing a cover letter and resume.



Human Resource Specialists Michael Vasile and Patty Meskers at the Groton Submarine Base

Topics covered included preparation for the interview, how to act professionally and the importance of communication. These men and women are transitioning out of the military after completion of their deployment. The Human Resource Staff members feel it is a privilege to give a little back to individuals who give so much of themselves for the safety of us all.

Thanks go out to Sherry Parker (I and R Assistant) at the Fleet and Family Support Center, Jon Pierce (TAP Coordinator) and Veterans Employment

Employee Assistance Program

1-800-252-4555

Available 24 hours a day - 7 days a week

www.theEAP.com

Representative Michael Ennis from The Connecticut Department of Labor for including us in this wonderful program

Radio News

Deployment of the new radios has been completed at the following facilities: Enfield CI, Osborn CI, Northern CI, Willard/Cybulski CI, Robinson CI, MacDougall/Walker CI, New Haven CC, and Brooklyn CI.

The next facility scheduled to receive the new radios is the Bridgeport Correctional Center.

4TH Annual Cheshire Cup

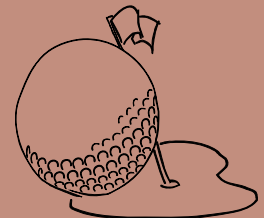
(Held in Bob Kloss & Tom Faherty's honor)

- Where:** Southington Country Club
- When:** Friday June 12, 2009
- Time:** 9:00am Registration
- Format:** 10:00am Shotgun Start-Scramble format
- Price:** \$100.00 per Golfer
\$400.00 per Foursome

Price Includes: Lunch, Dinner, Beverages

Contact Information

- Tom Hannon – 806-2500
- James Beecher – 806-2500
- Logan Miclette – 806-2633
- Caryn McCarthy – 806-2571
- Ken Kuhr – 806-2550



Fees due by May 28, 2009

Bob Kloss Memorial Sweatshirts are available to order **\$30 each**

Twice Blessed



Warden James Dzurenda of the Garner Correctional Institution is pleased to announce the birth of twin boys to Correction Officer David G.LaPointe and his wife Carol. The boys, Joshua David 5 lbs., 13 oz. and James Patrick 6 lbs., 1 oz. were born February 16, 2009. Mother, Father, and the babies are doing fine.