



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.

**Code Orange:
An Outpouring of Support**

As Officer Tim Richard and his family struggle with unimaginable hardships, his extended Department of Correction family responds with an outpouring of support. A 22-year veteran of Corrections who was assigned to the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution, Officer Richard recently underwent surgery for brain cancer, and is currently receiving chemotherapy treatments to combat any remaining tumor. Even so, given his doctors' latest prognosis, Tim has retired effective October 1, 2009. At this stressful time Tim's wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She also is receiving chemotherapy treatments. In addition to their own acute medical needs, they are also the parents of three daughters; one is attending college, while the other two suffer from Multiple Sclerosis. On top of everything else, they had to put down the family dog because it too had contracted cancer.



Warden Christine Whidden presents Officer Tim Richard with his retirement badge at his final roll call.

As word of the Richard family's misfortune spread, so too has the outpouring of support from DoC staff. Spearheaded by Warden Christine Whidden of the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution and Lieutenant Catherine Candelaria of the Security Division an initial batch of 250 "Code Orange" tee shirts were ordered and distributed. The Warden's office has been inundated with orders, and more tee shirts are being made (*you can printout an order form of the DOCWEB intranet site-<http://docweb.ctdoc.org/>*).

see Helping Family / page 6

September 11, 2009
through
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From the Commissioner



I want to update you on the continuing process that the Connecticut Department of Correction is engaged in to prepare for the H1N1, Swine Flu virus and its potential effect on our correctional facilities and our staff. As you likely know, we as an agency undertook a full scale pandemic planning effort several years ago in response to the threat of the Avian Flu. Our new efforts are building off of that very detailed and extensive foundation. Since the summer, Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Strange has been heading the preparations for the H1N1 Flu, in collaboration with our Health and Addiction Services Unit, the University of Connecticut Correctional Managed Health Care and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. In the facilities you are already seeing the first steps of this effort. We have posted signs on the exterior doors warning visitors not to enter if they are ill with the flu and warning that they will be turned away if they are sick. Hand sanitizer dispensers are being installed, increased signage reminding everyone, staff and inmates alike that hand washing is essential is being posted. Inmate tier men and janitors are also being trained to increase the cleaning of communal surfaces such as tables, counters and door handles. But these steps are a small fraction of what is being looked at. It is important to remember that just as we train with a continuum of force, that our defenses against the flu are also planned in stages. We will monitor developments daily, and we are prepared to implement all provisions of our plan.

see **Flu Season** / page 4

Eight Years Ago – 9/11 Remembrance

An overcast and drizzly Friday morning helped set the somber tone for members of the staff at the Department of Correction Central Office gathered inside Café 24 for a memorial observance of the tragic events that forever changed our country and our world on September 11, 2001.

“We all know exactly where we were at the moment when we first heard the reports that those towers, our people and our country were under attack, said Acting Commissioner Brian K. Murphy addressing the assembled group. “It is truly hard to believe that eight years have passed since then.” He went on to recount the tragic events of that fateful morning.



Commissioner Brian K. Murphy observes a moment of silence during the 9-11 Memorial Observance

Afterward, in response to the request by Governor M. Jodi Rell, a moment of silence, in remembrance of those who died that day was observed. The silence was broken by the mournful wailing of Associate Administrative Fiscal Officer Robert Carrara’s bagpipes as he played Amazing Grace.

In a gesture signifying our agency’s, as well as our country’s, embrace of diversity, Chaplain Rene Kieda and Chaplain, Imam Abdul Majid Karim Hasan offered prayers for those gathered, those we lost on September 11th, their families and for our great country.

see **Somber Tribute**/page 4

Unified School District #1 Teachers of the Year

2009 Teacher of the Year

Unified School District #1 is pleased to announce that State School Teacher Katie Hannon from Enfield CI has been selected as this year's Teacher of the Year. Ms. Hannon has been teaching in USD#1 since 2001. Her classes are interactive and engaging, and her use of applying a variety of instructional methods results in all of her students increasing their knowledge and learning. Her former principal, Gabe Riccio, stated in his letter of recommendation that Ms. Hannon "understands that inspired teaching is itself the best strategy for enforcing discipline in the classroom....every lesson is carefully designed to assure that students do not get bored or frustrated". Ms. Hannon is highly respected throughout the compound of her facility and throughout USD#1. She will be recognized and honored in the Fall by the CT State Department of Education.



Left to Right - Acting Deputy Commissioner Mark Strange, USD#1's Teacher of the Year Katie Hannon, Superintendent of Schools Angie Jalbert, Vocational Instructor of the Year Barry Dufault and Acting Commissioner Brian K. Murphy

2009 Vocational Instructor of the Year

Mr. Barry Dufault, vocational instructor from Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, has been selected and honored as the 2009-2010 Vocational Instructor of the Year. Mr. Dufault, a former restaurant owner and cooking

school instructor, was hired by the school district in 1995 as a culinary arts teacher at the Montville prison. Principal Melissa Stubbs declared in her letter of recommendation that "students who graduate from Mr. Dufault's program are able to leave Department of Correction with current culinary arts skills and a better chance for employment." Graduates depart with a well-rounded culinary arts background, a Connecticut Department of Labor Pre-Apprenticeship Credit, a Connecticut Career Certificate and are ServSafe qualified.

Recent Promotions

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Matthew DiPasquale	CFSSIII	MYI	8/28/2009
Wendy Loubier	CFSSIII	Northern CI	8/28/2009
Robert Mills	CFSSIII	Garner CI	8/28/2009
Roberto Ramirez	CFSSIII	Mac/Walker CI	8/28/2009

A Somber Tribute from page 2

Commissioner Murphy reminded those gathered that the defense of our nation’s freedom continues. “As we gather here today, more than 30 of our fellow staff of the Connecticut Department of Correction remain on active military duty around the world.” He went on to add, “since September 11th, 2001, nearly 150 of our colleagues, more than any other state agency, have taken up the call to protect our country and preserve our liberties.” As a way of paying tribute to those soldiers, Commissioner Murphy requested Correctional Industries Manager Raymond Munroe of the MacDougall-Walker Correctional Institution to conclude the proceedings with a moving rendition of “God Bless America.”

Flu Season from page 2

We do have provisions to quarantine offenders who come down with confirmed cases of the flu. We have insured that we have adequate protective equipment such as masks that will be available to staff that has direct contact with infected inmates. We also want to make sure that any staff member who contracts the flu does not come to work. As with the pandemic plan, the measures we have for dealing with the H1N1 strongly take into account how we would adequately staff a facility should there be a significant number of staff which becomes ill. The plans do ultimately, if conditions require, provide for us to cancel visits and limit a facility’s contact with the outside world. For now, however, the advice from the medical experts on down is the same, wash your hands. It is the best defense against the disease. We continue to work toward having access to the vaccine. However, the status of our access to the vaccine is not certain at this time; high-risk populations, i.e. children, are the nation’s and state’s first priority. Rest assured, we are ahead of the curve in preparing for the flu. You will continue to be updated through roll call notices, in the PRIDE at Work newsletter and on our DOCWEB Intranet site. Please take the appropriate precautions, wash your hands and continue to assure that our facility sanitation plans are adhered to.

Charitable Campaign Kick-Off

On August 28th, our agency officially began the 2009 State Employees Charitable Campaign with a “Kick-off” meeting held at the training academy. Correctional Captain Timothy Newton of the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution, who once again serves as the Agency Coordinator for the Campaign, led the meeting. The 2007/2008 statewide campaign raised just over \$2,000,000.00 for local and national charities – marking the first time the state employee contributions ever eclipsed the \$2,000,000.00 mark. Our department accounted for just over 5% of this total. By simply signing a donation pledge card, you will be performing an incredible act of kindness for the charity of your choice.

Around the Cell Block



Washington D.C. – The United States Senate recently passed the Safe Prisons Communications Act of 2009, which allows states to petition the Federal Communications Commission for the authority to “jam” or block the use of cell phones from prison.

GEORGIA- A small group of homeless sex offenders have set up camp in a densely wooded area behind a suburban Atlanta office park, directed there by probation officers who say it’s a place of last resort for those with nowhere else to go.

Washington – A court hearing for a jail inmate in Spokane had to be postponed a day because the inmate was wearing a surgical mask and his defense lawyer refused to sit next to him. Jailers had made the suspect wear the mask as a precaution against swine flu because he had shared a cell with sick inmates.

<p style="text-align: center;">Total Supervised Population on October 9, 2009 23,372 On October 9, 2008 the population was 23,824</p>
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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. This article was written by Kevin Roy, Plant Facilities Engineer I, questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860.253-3648. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860.692-7554.

Repairing Vinyl Siding

Vinyl wall siding is the bane of woodworkers and architects. However, the product has undergone numerous improvements during the past forty years and now accounts for approximately a third of the cladding used in new home construction and 95% of remodeling projects. The new variants of vinyl siding have improved impact resistance, reduced color fading, and better fastening systems to reduce wind damage.

That is not to say that vinyl siding is completely without the need for periodic maintenance. Although it does not need painting, there are a number of considerations to keep the material in good repair.

Vinyl siding is made from an organic chemical known as poly vinyl chloride (PVC) and has a heat distortion temperature of approximately 165 degrees Fahrenheit. When the temperature exceeds this level, the product may blister, distort, and melt. Keep propane barbecue grills away from vinyl-clad walls, and use window shades or plantings to dampen reflected light from heating the siding where possible.

Although tough, it is possible to puncture vinyl siding by flinging rocks into it while mowing the lawn. It is very brittle in cold weather and can crack. Repairing a damaged panel is simple. A zip tool (easily obtained from one of the “big box” hardware stores) and a flick of the wrist will unhook a panel from the one above it. Remove a few nails and a new panel can be installed. I have also used PVC plumbing cement to patch in a small piece of siding under a punctured panel.

All vinyl siding will fade somewhat over time. After about 15 years, the change can be significant. Painting vinyl siding is not a good option and many siding manufactures will void their warrantee if the material is painted.



Removing vinyl siding with a Zip

Vinyl siding will need to be cleaned from time to time to remove dirt and alga. Cleaning products can be purchased at most hardware stores. Another effective cleaning mixture is 1/3 cup laundry or dish detergent mixed in 3 gallons of water. Brush it on while working from the bottom up, and then hose it off from the top down. Older vinyl siding should not be pressure washed because it lacked drain holes to release water driven behind the siding.

Moisture trapped beneath vinyl siding will accelerate rot, promote mold and mildew, and invite insect infestations. To avoid hidden decay, frequently inspect the joints between the siding and adjacent trim and re-caulk as necessary. Roof leaks, faulty gutters, and other sources of moisture should be repaired without delay. Vinyl siding is not a wise choice for older homes with chronically damp basements.

Helping Family from page 1

On September 25, Osborn C.I. staff, together with Northern C.I. employees, held a Pay-to-Park to benefit the Richard family. The event netted more than \$2,500. In addition to the aforementioned efforts, Correctional Locksmith Augie Lopodota, who has never even met Officer Richard, organized a raffle (see sidebar), the top prize being a 50" high definition television. The desire to help is spreading throughout the Department - on Thursday, October 8, Cheshire C.I. is hosting a Code Orange Cookout for Officer Tim Richard.

Last week, just shy of 100 staff went to Tim's house to participate in his last roll call. In spite of a terminal diagnosis, Tim put on his uniform and joined in the celebration of his retirement. Warden Whidden then presented him with his retirement badge along with a check for \$10,000. To date, a total of \$16,000 has been raised for the cause. "I have been overwhelmed at the support for Tim - even from people who don't know him," said Warden Whidden. "We always hear that we are a "DOC" family, and now I am a believer."

CODE ORANGE RAFFLE

To Benefit C.O. Tim Richard & Family

FIRST PRIZE - 50 INCH PLASMA HDTV
SECOND PRIZE - WINDOWS 7 LAPTOP
THIRD PRIZE - PLAYSTATION

\$20.00 per TICKET

Purchase Ticket(s) From

Augie Lopodota WCCI or Maint. Wrhse: (860) 763-4990
Jason Ward @ Staff House 7 Electronic: (860) 253-3654
Local 391 Office in Enfield: (860) 745-0391

Pandemic Drills

There is an old saying, "practice makes perfect." This axiom holds especially true for emergency planning; through practice you discover what works, what doesn't work, and what needs to be changed. For this reason, and as part of the ongoing effort to prepare for a possible outbreak of the H1N1 "Swine Flu," the Department of Correction conducted agency-wide simulation drills on Thursday, October 1. Each facility was tasked with developing facility specific hypothetical scenarios.

Facility senior staff in conjuncture with Correctional Managed Health Care staff treated each possible scenario as "real," and responded to them according to their previously developed pandemic emergency plans. Two key issues that the facility staff focused on were isolation and quarantine. Although the timing, nature and severity of the next pandemic cannot be predicted with any certainty, preparedness planning is imperative to lessen the impact of a pandemic. By all accounts, the drills were a success - the Agency is now even better prepared to handle a potential outbreak.



Warden Scott Erfe of Hartford CC reviews strategies

Called to Serve



Lieutenant Noel Brown of Hartford CC cooks jerk chicken that he purchased himself for a QWL cookout held just prior to his deployment.

Once again the Department of Correction was well represented during a recent send off ceremony of two National Guard Units. Among those being deployed were four Department of Correction, and one Correctional Managed Health Care staff member(s).

The soldiers with ties to the Department include: CO Brane Blackstock (HCC), Lt. Noel Brown (HCC), and Nurse Supervisor Michael DeSena (NHCC), CO Doug Koulin (CCIC), Lt. Gerald Wood (HCC). They are members of the 118th Multifunctional Medical Battalion and 169th Aviation Battalion that will provide both command and control and logistical support throughout Iraq in their respective specialties.

Several dignitaries were also on-hand at the William O’Neill Armory in Hartford to see the troops off, including Connecticut’s Commander-in-Chief, M. Jodi Rell, Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and the CT Adjunct General MG Thad Martin. The coming months will prove to be busy for the CT-DOC Military Peer Support Program (MPSP), as more and more CT-DOC professionals are mobilized, according to Counselor Supervisor Jacqueline Jennett who helps coordinate the MPSP. She has no doubt the MPSP along with the larger Department of Correction “family” will be ready to meet the needs of these fine correctional professionals/soldiers and their families.

Stand Down Stand Outs

As a way to show appreciation to our state’s veterans, Human Resource Specialist Patty Meskers, solicited donations from the staff at Central Office for Stand Down 2009. For the twelfth time since 1992, the Connecticut Department of Veterans’ Affairs conducted a full day event called “Stand Down” to provide free assistance and service information to homeless and indigent veterans of our state. This year’s event was held on Friday, September 18, 2009 on the grounds of the Connecticut Veterans’ Home in Rocky Hill. Thanks to the generosity of our staff, Meskers was able to deliver a boxfull of donated “wish list” items, along with approximately \$150.00 in cash donations to the Veterans’ Home on the day of the “Stand Down.”



Some of the DoC staff members that donated to the Department of Veteran Affairs Stand Down 2009.

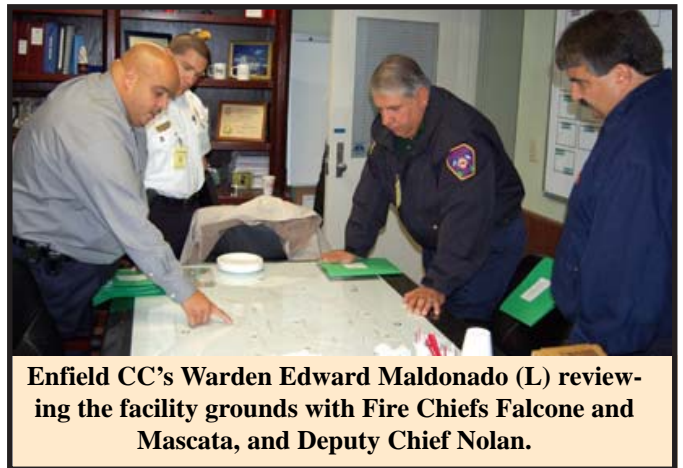
Many state agencies and community programs volunteer their services to homeless and indigent veterans during the “Stand Down.” Some of these volunteers include those from the Yale School of Medicine, UConn Dental School and Connecticut Lions, and other health care professionals who offer health screenings, treatment of dental needs, and eye exams for any who wish such services. An estimated 200,000 U.S. veterans are homeless, accounting for about 25 percent to 30 percent of the nation’s total homeless population. This year, a record 1,200 homeless and needy veterans from across Connecticut attended the Stand Down event.

THE OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE - HERE TO HELP!

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) is an independent state agency whose charge is to advocate for crime victims' state Constitutional rights, which include, the right to be reasonably protected from the perpetrator, the right to be treated with fairness and respect, and the right to participate in criminal justice process just to name a few. As Correctional Officers, and staff of the Department of Correction, these rights apply equally to each and every one of you, even though you are employed by the state to supervise and watch over offenders. Your status as a DOC employee or Correctional Officer does not and should not change the responsiveness you receive when assaulted, threatened or abused by an offender. We at the OVA understand that your work is not easy and is often not recognized by the greater public. However, we also believe when you are confronted with violence by an inmate, you should be treated as a victim, and provided those very important Constitutional rights. The OVA can assist you, when and if you become a victim of a crime within the Department of Correction, by advocating for you and ensuring your rights are protected. What does that mean? First, all conversations with OVA staff are confidential by statute. When a victim contacts the OVA, we will listen to your story, access the responsiveness to the crime committed against you, and lodge a plan of attack to ensure your rights are being protected. What can that look like? The OVA staff can meet with law enforcement or prosecutors to discuss failure to prosecute allegations or request further investigation, accompany victims to court, connect victims with appropriate services, and in some cases, initiate legislative or policy changes to better address the needs of victims or launch an investigation to uncover systematic failures in the system and make recommendations. Being a crime victim is an awful experience; however, you don't have to suffer alone – the OVA can help. For more information contact the OVA at: toll free within the state (888) 771 – 3126 or (860) 550-6632 or visit our website at www.ova.state.ct.us

Enfield CI Outreach

In an effort to improve the level of safety, security and communication at the Enfield C.I. facility, Warden Edward Maldonado recently conducted three separate facility tours. First to visit, on Friday, September 11, were Fire Chiefs from the surrounding towns to tour the facility and discuss emergency and fire safety procedures. Fire Chief Charles Mascata and Deputy Chief James Nolan from Shaker Pines Department in Enfield and Deputy Fire Chief Frank Falcone from Somers Fire Department attended the event. Warden Maldonado presented an overview of the facility grounds including the location of fire hydrants and stand pipes, staging areas, and the facility command center. He then lead a tour of the grounds, maintenance area, and several housing units. On hand to field questions were Deputy Warden M. Pidgeon, PFE Ronnie Mattias, Captains B. Vinton and C. Ruffin, Life Safety Officer P. Sweeney, and Maintenance Supervisor Lou Brault.



Enfield CC's Warden Edward Maldonado (L) reviewing the facility grounds with Fire Chiefs Falcone and Mascata, and Deputy Chief Nolan.

On September 16, State Representative Karen Jarmoc, Captain Gary Collins from Enfield Police Department, CT State Trooper Cournoyer, and members of the Crescent Lake Tax Division visited the facility. Along with a general overview, the warden discussed the recent simulated codes conducted at the facility to prepare staff in the event of an actual emergency.

For the third tour on September 18, the warden invited members from the SOG, Critical Response Team, and Tactical Operations Unit to Enfield CI to discuss any safety and/or security issues. The emergency response staff offered suggestions and recommendations to increase security. The feedback from all of the visitors' was positive and much appreciated.