

Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall strive to be a global leader in progressive correctional practices and partnered re-entry initiatives to support responsive evidence-based practices aligned to law-abiding and accountable behaviors. Safety and security shall be a priority component of this responsibility as it pertains to staff, victims, citizens and offenders.

From the Commissioner



I never have to look very far to find examples of exemplary staff members working within our agency. I have the good fortune to interact with many of them on a daily basis. However, if you want to get a sense of the number of great people associated with this impressive organization you need look no further than this newsletter.

Within this edition you will read articles about various award ceremonies which took place recently throughout this great Department. I was especially proud to participate in my first agency wide Annual Awards Ceremony held in September. During the course of the ceremony, hearing the accomplishments and commitment of the many deserving staff members read aloud only served to reinforce what I already knew – that the men and women of the Department of Correction are simply the best.

In October, the Parole and Community Services Division held their Annual Awards Ceremony at Camp Nett Army National Guard Base in Niantic, CT, where I had the privilege of assisting Parole Director Eric Ellison in presenting awards to the parole staff members who are the integral link to helping offenders successfully return to their communities.

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through
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24 Wolcott Hill Road
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Ned Lamont
Governor

Rollin Cook
Commissioner

Web address:
www.ct.gov/doc

Public Information
Office telephone:
(860) 692-7780
Fax: (860) 692-7783

DOC Annual Awards Ceremony

The Department of Corrections Annual Awards Ceremony held September 26, 2019, at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development was the first time Commissioner Rollin Cook had the opportunity to publicly praise and acknowledge some of the outstanding individuals who make up this agency.

After Commissioner Cook welcomed the audience, it was time for the presentation of the awards. The recipients were called to the stage to accept their award, while a brief description of their accomplishments were read.

see Honoring Our Best/page 3



Samantha Lockery (R)
receives the
Commissioner's Award

Employee Assistance Unit Welcomes First Director



As a part of the Department’s ongoing effort to promote employee wellness, a new Employee Assistance Unit (EAU) has been created, and to lead the unit a Director, Dianne Moynihan LICSW, has been hired.

The Mission of the EAU is to provide confidential peer support, intervention, assist employees with guidance and referral to treatment when necessary, to educate and protect staff and family members who work within the Connecticut Department of Correction. The goal is to provide confidential resources through clinical and social intervention while helping to maintain a healthy and balanced work environment for agency employees and their families.

Aside from Director Moynihan, the EAU team is made of NP4, NP8 and Human Resources staff members.

Having begun her career in the Employee Assistance industry in 1992, Director Moynihan was most recently the Director of the Employee Assistance Services

Unit with the Massachusetts Department of Correction, providing essential services to approximately 5,000 employees within Massachusetts’ 16 statewide facilities.

She holds a Bachelor’s of Art degree in Psychology from North Adams State College (North Adams, MA) and a Master’s of Social Work degree from Simmons College- School of Social Work (Boston, MA). As a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker for 25 years, she also holds several additional certifications, including but not limited to: critical incident stress management, Mental Health First Aid certified, Red Cross community AIDS educator, certified divorce mediator, sexual assault and domestic violence certified counselor, and suicide prevention certified counselor.

Ms. Moynihan has also worked as Chief Executive Officer for 15 years on behalf of local non-profit organizations administering, developing, and supervising clinical staff and community-based programs.

Please join Commissioner Cook and the entire Executive Team in welcoming Director Moynihan, and wishing her much success in leading this important initiative.

EAU Contacts

NP4 387

Aaron Lichwalla	203-509-0321
Rudy Demiraj	860-406-1314
Virginia Ligi	203-509-2531

NP4 391

Robert Beamon	860-837-1920
Collin Provost	860-837-3143
John Bowen	860-729-0594
Patrick Carambia	860-837-3144

NP4 1565

Michael Vargo	860-306-4539
Mike Tuthill	860-208-8056

NP8

Wayne Crews	959-282-4405
Michael Capellaro	959-282-4408
Millie Brown	203-525-0087

Human Resources

Maria Guglielmi	860-692-6850
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EAU Director / Clinician

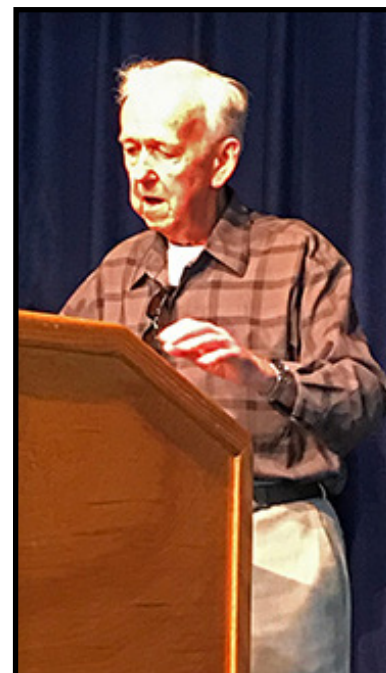
Dianne Moynihan	959-282-9516
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Honoring Our Best from page 1

Whenever possible the individual who nominated the award recipient came forward to read the award winner ‘s accomplishments.

One of the ceremony’s most memorable moments came early on with the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award. The first award to be presented was given to Jack Hughes, who has served as a volunteer for the past 50 years. After being assisted up the steps to the podium, Mr. Hughes moved many in the audience to tears with his tribute to his brother who died from issues related to alcoholism. Hughes has led Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for half a century as a way to honor his brother’s memory.

As is frequently the case, the awards ceremony highlighted several examples of our staff’s heroism. For example, there were the actions of the Medal of Valor recipient, Correctional Counselor Brad Guertin. On May 20, 2019, Guertin, who is assigned to the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution displayed extraordinary



**Jack Hughes
50 Years of Volunteering**

bravery and exceptional valor when he provided critical assistance to two Ludlow, MA police officers.

The two officers had responded to a call in which a male and female were engaged in a physical altercation. Upon arrival, the two suspects turned their aggression to the responding police officers. While one officer was restraining the female suspect, the other officer was attempting to subdue the male. Counselor Guertin, who coincidentally happened to be enjoying his birthday, came upon the scene and witnessed the struggle between the male suspect and Ludlow police officer.

The male suspect managed to pin the officer on his back and was attempting to disarm the officer. Counselor Guertin perceived an immediate threat to life and did not hesitate to intervene. He charged the suspect and knocked him off the officer. Counselor Guertin was able to secure one of the suspect’s arms so the officer could apply restraints and neutralize the threat.

Had Counselor Guertin not intervened, this incident could have ended very differently. The Ludlow Police Chief and Officers acknowledged Counselor Guertin’s heroic efforts and were extremely grateful for his assistance.

The Department of Correction 2018 Annual Award Recipients

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
Medal of Valor	Brad Guertin
Officer of the Year	Michael Tanguay
Employee of the Year	Edward Tomaszewski
Dist. Public Service	Kervin Ocasio
Dist. Service Medal	COs Andrew Cyr, Nick Dedvukaj, Steven Gallo, Erik Meadors, Nathaniel Slater, and Lt Luis Zayas. COs Luke Troughton, Lindell Burns, Matthew Patterson
Parole Officers	Jose Cartagena, Jessica Castillo, & Martin Shafman
Dist. Diversity Unit	York CI
Dist. Wellness Award	CRCC
Supervisor of the Year	Donald Boyd
Manager of the Year	Antonio Santiago
Parole Officer of the Year	Jennifer Desena
Health Services	
Employee of the Year	Tawanna Furtick
Teacher of the Year	Jamie Rainville
Excellence in	
Correctional Training	Calma Frett
Volunteer of the Year	Jack Hughes
Unit of the Year	USD #1
Commissioner’s Award	Samantha Lockery

Staff Appreciation @ HCC

The staff of the Hartford Correctional Center held a Pay-to-Park, on Friday, September 13, to benefit Nicole Beaulieu, a Mental Health Nurse who was recently diagnosed with Metastatic Breast Cancer and is currently undergoing treatment.

Thanks to the generosity of her coworkers a total of \$1,960 was raised to support Nicole and her family in their time of need. Additionally Ms. Beaulieu was presented with a check in the amount of \$350 from the Correctional Peace Officer's Foundation (CPOF).



(LtoR): RCOO Kirsten Shea, Warden Ned McCormick, Capt. Timothy Newton, Deputy Warden Ernestine Green, Dr. Kristine Matthews, Nicole Beaulieu, Capt. Sergio Perez, and Deputy Warden Craig Washington presented Nicole Beaulieu with a CPOF donation.

In response to the donations, nurse Beaulieu forwarded the following message to the Hartford CC staff which was read at roll call:

To my DoC family:

*I cannot begin to express my eternal gratitude for all of your generosity and support. I am overwhelmed with appreciation that you all would donate your hard earned money to help my family and I as we take this long, hard journey to fighting (and beating) breast cancer. The funds you all raised will help my family and me when I need to take several weeks off for surgery at the beginning of the year. To take away the stress that finances can bring is such a relief and something my family and I are forever grateful for. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support and well wishes. I am so thankful to be a part of the DoC family, and to work with each and every one of you. Your generosity will never be forgotten.
Nicole Beaulieu*

Around the Cell Block



WASHINGTON - The American Legion granted Stafford Creek a permanent charter in October 2019 to form a post inside the correctional facility. This is the first correctional facility in Washington to have an officially chartered post.

MONTANA - The state's DoC has agreed to remove ex-offenders from its online convict website. Currently the offenders remain on the online offender database for three years after their release.

IOWA - An Iowa inmate serving a life sentence says he should be a free man after he became ill, momentarily died, and had to be revived at the hospital. A district judge found little merit in the inmate's argument, saying his filing confirmed he was still among the living.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
November 15, 2019**

17,374

**On November 15, 2018
the population was
18,035**

Very Important Conference

The tables were turned recently at the Agency's Volunteers, Interns and Professional Partners (VIP) Appreciation, Recognition and Professional Development Conference when those who usually give of themselves were given something in return – appreciation.

More than 200 volunteers attended the Appreciation, Recognition, and Professional Development Conference held at the Maloney Center for Training and Staff Development on November 1. The theme of the conference was, "Making a Difference."

William Murphy, the Director of Programs and Treatment, officially welcomed those in attendance. He also provided some impressive statistics regarding the level of commitment of those who volunteer for the department. As of last month there were a total of 3,906 approved volunteers with another 581 pending approval, according to Director Murphy. For the month of September alone a total of 1,113 volunteers donated 1,835 hours of their time, directly affecting 7,518 offenders.

The impressive statistics surprised even some veteran DoC staff members in attendance, not realizing the extent to which volunteers contribute to this department.

Aside from recognition and appreciation the day also included a training component for the VIPs in attendance. Religious Services Director Charles Williams gave a talk about, "the Importance of Boundaries." Captain Julie Kunkel followed Director Williams with an informative presentation of her own on the topic of inmate manipulation.

Counselor Supervisor Calma Frett, who oversees the Volunteer Services Unit, organized the successful event with the help of many of the Department's Volunteer Coordinators. Part of the day's activities included the acknowledgement of each facility's coordinators.

The following individuals also received a Certificate of Recognition for distinguished service, unconditional commitment and dedicated support: **VIPs** - Roslyn Billings, Robert Carini, Brian Chapman, Miranda Chapman, Aston Dakers, Joseph Diorio, Judy Dworin, Dwight Floyd, Jeffrey Greene, Iglesia Cristiana Nuevo Pacto, Barbara-Ann Lisien-Juliano, Maurice Magnotta, Robert Mandino, James Matschulat, Da'ee McKnight, James Noe, Georgio Papallo, John Roussin, Barbara Sireno, Robert Sireno, Saroj (Bala) Sivaramakrishnan, Patricia Spofford, Nancy Strillacci, Robert Turner, Marilus Velez, Maritza Velez, Anne Wernau, Edward Wheeler, Kelvin Young, and Donna Zaharevitz; **DoC staff** - Louise Downer, and Kristen Jurzynski.

Lunch was also provided in an effort to show heartfelt appreciation to all the volunteers and department staff for their extraordinary efforts. As is often the case, it was a good day for giving back.



Counselor Supervisor Calma Frett listens to a presenter during the Volunteer Appreciation Conference.



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Award Worthy Staff from page 1

Also featured - though technically not members of our staff – are the many men and women who volunteer an incredible number of hours each year to our agency who were also honored at an appreciation event held November 1, at the training academy. The ceremony, attended by more than 200 volunteers, served to remind us of the almost inconceivable level of dedication of the Agency’s Volunteer of the Year; Jack Hughes, who has been coming to our facilities to lead Alcohol Anonymous meeting for 50 years.

Let’s not forget our four-legged friends that help keep our facilities safe – inside this edition is a recap of the K9 Olympics held back in August at the Officer’s Beach in Enfield. Competing against numerous other police departments and law enforcement agencies, the DoC’s team of Lt. Josh Trifone and his K9 partner Tango took top honors placing first in the overall competition.

To all those who received awards or who were acknowledged for your service, I cannot thank you enough. What’s even more astonishing is the fact that for every individual who received an award, there is at least two or three others who are equally deserving of recognition.

It is because of each and every one of you - your professionalism, your dedication, your commitment to excellence – that we are frequently looked to as the standard bearer in the field of corrections.

It is a true honor to serve as your Commissioner. Stay safe.

Honoring Our Best Continued from page 3

This was one of many examples during the awards ceremony of the quality of character that makes up the staff of our agency.

As is tradition, the final award presentation is The Commissioner’s Award. Unlike the other awards that were chosen by the Executive Team based on nominations from staff, the Commissioner’s Award is chosen solely by the Commissioner.

This year’s recipient was Health Services Unit Manager Samantha Lockery who heads up the Health Services’ Patient Priority and Transportation or PPT Unit. The PPT Unit is responsible for scheduling and coordinating all outside medical appointments to specialty physicians. This includes clinic visits,

office visits, surgeries, and therapies. It is a demanding task to say the least – Unit Manager Lockery almost single handedly manages all these functions. The award and the fact that her family and friends were present to witness her receiving the honor was a complete surprise, one which brought her to tears of joy.

With the presentation of the Commissioner’s Award the ceremony drew to a close. All in all, it was a great day to celebrate the accomplishments of some of the best correctional professionals anywhere.



Members of Unified School District #1’s listen as Superintendent Maria Pirro-Simmons reads their accomplishments as Unit of the Year.

Division of Parole and Community Services Appreciation Day and Awards Ceremony

The Division of Parole and Community Services held its Annual Staff Appreciation Day and Awards Ceremony on the sunny autumn day of Friday, October 4, 2019. The ceremony was held at the National Guard Base, Camp Nett in Niantic. The Department of Correction's Honor Guard officially kicked off the event, following a



(LtoR): Director's Award Winner Emily Zarotney, Director Eric Ellison, Paroler Supervisors Rhianna Gingras and Marvin Anderson

beautiful rendition of the National Anthem by Parole's own, Michele Jones.

Parole Supervisor Marvin Anderson and Parole Supervisor Rhianna Gingras took to the podium and started the ceremony by thanking the members of the awards committee for their hard work, dedication and commitment to recognize and appreciate their co-workers; Director Eric Ellison for his ongoing support and encouragement; the National Guard for allowing the Division to use the facility; the Parole and Community Services (P&CS) staff for their participation in the various fundraisers conducted throughout the year, for their nominations and photos; and the Department's own Honor Guard for being there to open and close the ceremony. Director Ellison offered opening remarks and introduced new P&CS staff members. He recognized those who worked hard to achieve promotions, and those that retired.

Commissioner Cook and members of the Executive Team were in attendance, as were the agency's wardens. The Commissioner offered opening remarks to the Division while sporting a more laid back attire,

by taking his jacket off. He and members of the Executive Team joined Director Ellison in handing out the awards.

The following is a listing of the awards and the recipients:

Professional Partner Award:

Internal – DoC Computer Forensic Unit – Andrzej Iciak, Jeffrey Valdez, Michael Whitehead

External – Waterbury Police Department, Chief Fernando Spagnolo, LT. Jeremy Desena, Captain Michael Ponzillo

Parole Officer of the Year – Jennifer Desena

District Awards: Support & Treatment Services – Nicole Grimaldi

Hartford District Office – Chris Sullivan **Bridgeport District Office** – Jack Wallace

New Haven District Office – Giovanna Harris **Norwich District Office** – Rob Johnson

Waterbury District Office – Jennifer Desena

Leadership Award – Rhianna Gingras

Preservation of Life Award: Lindsay Carrington, Jose Cartagena, Jessica Castillo, and Martin Shafman

Director's Award – Emily Zarotney

DOC Circle of Merit Award – Vincent DeLucia

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Parole Staff Awards

from page 7

Meritorious Services Awards:

For the meritorious service for “Operation Raw Deal”-Parole Supervisors Kendra Herrick, Greg Denote and Randi Demers and Parole Officers Sheila Thompson, Abigail Cintron, Keyra Rosario, Netasia Jones, Kurt Schaab, Glenn Waldron, Jen Desena, Kristina Schaeffer, Danielle Munroe, Stacey Pettinato, Danielle Mancini, Trudy Beaulieu, Dominic Lettieri, Lisa Brayfield, Kim Goodman, David Byrne and Noel Martinez

“Bridgeport Home Visit” - Parole Officers Lauren Bennett, Jeff Fernandes and Jack Wallace



P&CS Training Instructors - Parole Supervisors Marvin Anderson, Rhianna Gingras, Randi Demers, and Greg DeNote, and the following Parole Officers David Byrne, Lindsay Carrington, Jose Cartagena, TJ Criscitiello, Marvin Daniel, Jen Desena, Steve Faiella, Marvin Flores, John Lindgren, Jeff Simons, Sheila Thompson, Glenn Waldron, and Emily Zarotney

Outstanding Service: Parole Officer TJ Criscitiello
Waterbury Reach Remand: Parole Officers Kate Fortuna, Jim Long, Jaime Babich, Stacey Pettinato, Noel Martinez, Danielle Mancini, Al Ferraro, Katherine Montoya, and Dominic Lettieri

Superlative Awards:

Office Zen Award – Kevin O’Reilly and Matt Leece
Ray of Sunshine – Tanya Smith

Veteran Appreciation

@ CRCI

On November 6, 2019, the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution celebrated Veterans Day for staff members who are serving or have served in our Nation’s Armed Forces.



The event which was organized by Warden Zelynette Caron and Captain Margarita Rios included the presentation of certificates of appreciation for the veterans as well as a luncheon buffet. The event was a meaningful gesture of appreciation to those who protect our freedoms.

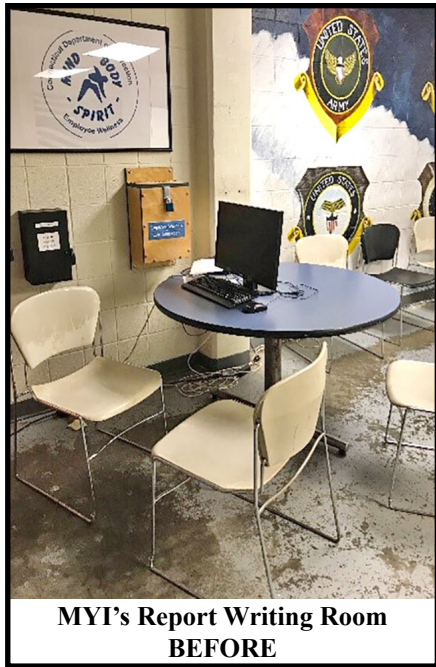


HITEC-MYI Design Team Making Positive Changes for Staff

HITEC stands for Health Improvement Through Employee Control and is a collaboration between staff at UCONN Health, the Department of Correction, and the NP-4 Bargaining Unit, with the goal of improving overall health, well-being, and working conditions of correctional staff.

The joint partnership is in its 13th year and is funded by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Several HITEC Design Teams are active throughout the state, most of which are run by non-managerial correctional staff (Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center, Manson Youth Institution, a team from the five facilities represented by Local 391) and one that is run by correctional supervisors.

The Manson Youth Institution's (MYI) Design Team has been meeting since January of 2018 to develop interventions to improve the work environment for staff at MYI. The facility's Design Team recently conducted a survey to evaluate the physical and mental well-being, work experiences, and health intervention needs with the goal of identifying work stress factors among staff. One of the overwhelming responses in the survey identified the lack of a designated space to write reports with access to computers. As a result, with the collaboration of MYI administration, the Design Team created a new report writing room specifically for correctional staff. The project, completed in August, includes three computers, a network printer/



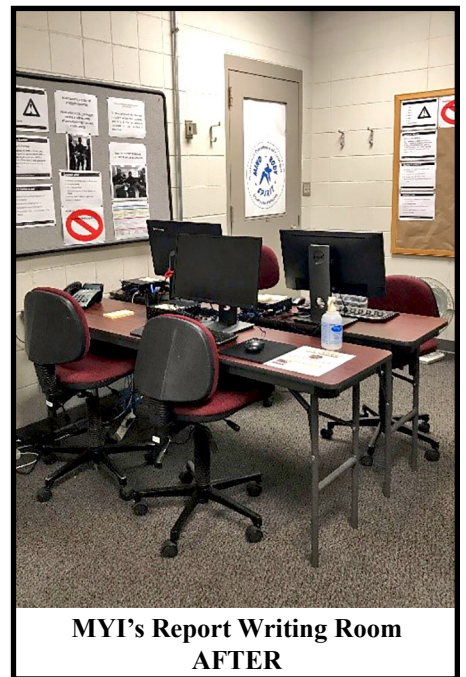
MYI's Report Writing Room BEFORE

copier, a coffee maker and a binder containing report writing resources.

Another project the MYI Design Team is working with the facility's administration to accomplish is to create two structures on their open compound for correctional officers to utilize. Since the start of MYI's Design Team, it has been a high priority to find a resolution for this dilemma. After months of working with administration on this goal, the team is pleased to announce that two new structures are in the process of being added to the compound, which will offer closer proximity for staff response and protection from the elements. The structures are expected to be completed by the end of 2019. The Design Team continues to work on addressing issues to improve workplace health. Some other current and recent initiatives by the Design Team at MYI include:

- Organized and implemented a Staff Health and Wellness Fair, with 16 local vendors and agencies in June 2019
- In progress of assessing report writing training needs and training materials
- Currently establishing a staff decompression room
- Implementing correctional staff health and wellness trainings
- Finalizing the refurbishing of a bathroom for staff use on the recreation deck.

The MYI Design Team currently consists of Correction Officers Eric Tokarzewski, Martin Wiosna, Scott Eaton, Ryan Lis, Cindy Chodkowski, Juan Crespo, Aaron Lichwalla and CSW Melinda Mysliwiec.



MYI's Report Writing Room AFTER

K-9 Olympic Recap

Back during the heat of July, the Connecticut Department of Correction hosted the 28th Annual K-9 Olympics at Officers' Beach, part of the Carl Robinson Correctional Institution compound in Enfield, CT. This was the third year that the event was held at this location, and it has proven to be a great success. The event brought in several thousand spectators who braved the heat and enjoyed seeing the different K-9 Teams showcase their many talents.

The competition included competitors from The Connecticut Department of Correction, The New York City Department of Correction, The Massachusetts' Hampden County Sheriff's Department, UCONN Police Department, The Connecticut State Police, and several municipal K-9 Police teams from throughout the state. The participating agencies unite each year to raise money, which in turn is donated to multiple charitable organizations. This year's event raised more than 8,000 dollars which was distributed to the following recipients: Special Olympics of Connecticut, CHIPS, and the Shriners Burn Center.

To start off the competition the K-9 teams plunged into a large water pit before continuing on to complete various on-field events which included: tactical obedience, obstacles, distance/box obedience and a criminal apprehension drill.

These events test the canine's agility and ability to remain attentive to their handler.

Our very own Department of Correction K-9 Unit earned multiple awards on this special day. Lieutenant Josh Trifone and his K-9 partner Tango placed first in the overall competition. While another DoC K-9 team was hot on their heels, as K-9 Officer Tom Huckins and his K-9 Bowser placed second overall. K-9 Officer Jason Masis and K-9 Odin earned Top Team in Obedience, and K-9 Officer Jim Hensley and K-9 Khaos earned Top Team in Obstacles. Six additional teams from our Department also competed in the event including: Officer Hibbard and K-9 Cezar, Officer Hoxhallari and K-9 Don, Officer Peralta and K-9 Jak, Officer Rainville and K-9 Kai, Officer Santiago and K-9 Torino, and Officer Thibault and K-9 Drobec.

This successful annual community event is a direct result of collaborative efforts from many parts of the DoC. Special thanks to Carl Robinson CI Food Services, District One Maintenance staff, and all the officers on the K-9 Unit. Thank you also to Captain Ron Zaczynski for playing the role of "bad guy" and decoying each and every dog. Additional thanks to the Connecticut State Police Credit Union for sponsoring a large tent so that our spectators could enjoy plenty of shade. Finally, a special thank you to all of the judges that volunteered their time that day as well. The event would not be possible without the hard work and assistance of each and every one who helped make this year's K-9 Olympics a great event. The members of the department's K-9 Unit are looking forward to making next year's event even bigger and better.



K-9 Officer Jim Hensley and K9 Khaos earned Top Team in the Obstacle Challenge during the 2019 K-9 Olympics.