



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 restitution, rehabilitation and successful community intergration

Ten Years After

With the backdrop of a nation commemorating the tenth anniversary of the 9-11 tragedy, staff at the Department of Correction's Central Office gathered by the flagpoles for a memorial observance. In what has become a tradition, as well as a show of unity, Director of Religious Services Father Anthony Bruno, and Chaplain Imam Abdul Majid Karim Hasan together offered prayers for those whose lives' were lost on September 11, their families, and for our nation.

Deputy Commissioner James Dzurenda read the roll-call of names of the 21 DoC staff members on active military duty around the world. The ceremony concluded with Commissioner Arnone issuing a solemn request. "Ten years ago. We can never forget, we must always remember."



Father Bruno and Imam Hasan offer a joint prayer.

August 9, 2011

through

September 13, 2011

Distributed bi-monthly
to 6,200 staff
and via the Internet
throughout Connecticut
and the nation

by the
Department of Correction
24 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109

From the Commissioner



There is nothing like adversity to bring out the true capabilities of a person or in this case a correctional agency. How the Connecticut Department of Correction handled the impact of Hurricane and then Tropical Storm Irene has opened the eyes of many in the state to the abilities of our agency and its professional men and women. Once again, it was our extensive planning that kept us prepared for an event such as this. Long before the storm approached, we fell back and reviewed those emergency procedures that keep our facilities safe, secure and self-sufficient when a crisis occurs. The essentials of power, water and food, that quickly can become life challenging issues for many in situations such as this, are prepared for and in place long before an emergency situation occurs. Planning sessions took place days in advance of the storm's arrival. Among a number of other concerns, steps were taken to identify facilities that might be more heavily impacted by the storm, such as those on the shoreline and plans were made for eventualities up to and including a full evacuation of more than a thousand inmates.

see **Weathering the Storm/ page 3**

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Leo C. Arnone
Commissioner

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Emergency Meals

In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, the Department of Correction's Nutrition and Food Services Staff provided more than 10,000 meals to fire stations, volunteers and those affected by the storm.

The Department has an established Memorandum of Understanding with the Red Cross to help with emergency feedings in case of manmade or natural disasters. In advance of Tropical Storm Irene, Director of Nutrition and Food Services Mike Bibens met with representatives of the Red Cross to discuss possible scenarios.

Director Bibens informed them that due to the Production Center renovation project, the Department of Correction would only be able to provide cold bagged meals. Four facilities (MacDougall/Walker, MYI, New Haven and Garner) were contacted to ensure that they were able to prepare and provide these bagged meals if needed, all facilities agreed and were on standby.

After the storm, Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak, who was working with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), called and requested that Food Services gear-up to start producing bagged meals for emergency feedings.

A call came into the Department on Tuesday, August 30th from the EOC requesting bagged meals be sent to the following Fire Houses across the state to feed volunteer workers--Voluntown, Ledyard, Oxford, Madison, Bethany, Mansfield and Coventry equaling 475 meals. Food Services' Cook/Chill Drivers were notified to report to MacDougall/Walker (who produced the meals) to distribute the food accordingly. Another request came in for 100 bagged meals for the Red Cross in Farmington. Later that same day, the Red Cross requested an additional 2,500



MacDougall-Walker CI's Food Service Supervisors Kirk Sato (L) and Trevor Williams make sandwiches for the Red Cross following Tropical Storm Irene.

meals per day be delivered to them at the Middletown Red Cross Shelter on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday – for a total of 10,000 meals.

In addition, a Food Services Cook/Chill Driver was deployed to Rentschler Field in East Hartford to work with the EOC over the Labor Day holiday weekend to help distribute ice and water to towns as needed. Two other drivers delivered the bagged meals to the Red Cross.

The following staff should be commended for their hard work and dedication:

CDFSM Frank DeCusati, CFSSIII's Sean Laverty and Jerome Robert, CFSSII's Stephen Mannette, Micheal Mitsou, Trevor Williams, Paul Carra, Steven LaPlante, Kirk Sato and Joseph Campbell, Fiscal Services staff Beth Weber and Karie Jones, and Correction Officers Rice, Castleman and Murray.



Commissioner Leo C. Arnone and Deputy Commissioner Cheryl Cepelak confer with Correction Officer Kenneth Ventura (L) and Lieutenant Greg Chandler at the State Emergency Operations Center during Tropical Storm Irene.

Weathering the Storm from page 1

In fact the inmates from one halfway house in a threatened area were safely back in a correctional facility long before the wind started to blow. So when the storm arrived, we were ready. Those facilities in vulnerable areas were fully prepared, and while some did have to move several hundred inmates to higher ground as a precaution, this was carried out almost as a routine matter and without issue. In fact, as the storm worsened and in its aftermath, it was DOC staff that assisted communities such as Bridgeport and others with evacuations; road along with state troopers to strengthen their numbers in responding to emergencies, and would eventually assist the National Guard with recovery efforts and the distribution of food and water. Throughout, despite the adversity that the storm brought at work and at home for many of our staff, you were at your post and prepared to insure that we didn't miss a beat. On Monday, when the storm had at last left the region, reporters called to ask what damage we had suffered and how we were coping. The answer was short. We had several facilities on generator power, but other than that, we were under normal operations. This was not the answer they got from many other state agencies. At the State's Emergency Operations Center, our efforts and expertise were on display and were taken notice of by those in attendance. In the week following the storm, our staff is still being called upon to assist in emergency operations all because of the resourcefulness that we have exhibited throughout the emergency. In retrospect, we exceeded our usual mission of protecting the public by keeping our facilities safe and secure. Additionally, the Connecticut Department of Correction was ready, willing and able to assist in the community in a time of great adversity for many. I have always been incredibly proud to be part of this agency ever since I joined it in 1974, but never as proud as I have been this past week. Thank you for all you do every day and for your preparedness to handle whatever comes our way.

Keeping the Faith Reverend Etter Named Salvation Army "Chaplain of the Year"

The Reverend Dr. Laurie Etter of the York Correctional Institution was recently named the Salvation Army Chaplain of the Year by the American Correctional Association (ACA).

The reverend was presented the award on August 9, 2011, in Orlando, Florida, as part of the ACA's 141st Congress of Correction. Etter has worked as a chaplain for more than 30 years, and is the 50th recipient of the Salvation Army Chaplain of the Year award which recognizes excellence in correctional chaplaincy.

Chaplain Etter was nominated for her work in developing multi-faith, gender-responsive programming, particularly the Chrysalis Community for women re-entering society and the Willow Community for women serving sentences greater than ten years. Certified by the American Correctional Chaplains Association and by the ACA as a Certified Correctional Manager, she served as secretary for the American Correctional Chaplains Association from 2004-2008. Please join Commissioner Leo C. Arnone, along with Director of Religious Services Father Anthony J. Bruno in congratulating Rev. Etter.



Reverend Laurie Etter is presented with the Salvation Army's Chaplain of the Year Award by the National Commander of the Salvation Army, William Roberts.

Shooting Task Force Takes Aim at Hartford Streets

The streets of Hartford are safer thanks in part to staff from the Department of Correction who are working in partnership with Hartford-area, and state law enforcement agencies to help combat the recent increase of gun violence in Hartford.

The Hartford Shooting Team, which was established in early July, is a collaborative effort among the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, Office of the Hartford County State's Attorney, Connecticut State Police, Department of Correction, and the Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford and Manchester Police Departments. There have been



Parole Officer Al Bonfiglio (center) along with other members of the Hartford Shooting Task Force, search for a gun in a Hartford apartment kitchen recently.

17 homicides in Hartford as of July 1, surpassing the pace for the same period last year, when 11 had occurred. In addition, the city has had 70 shootings this year, compared with 64 at the same point in 2010. The task force is charged with investigating gun violence, and bringing those responsible for such violence to prosecution. It also collaborates with the

Violent Crimes Bureau and the Witness Protection Unit in the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, as well as working in conjuncture with the Central Connecticut Cold Case Task Force.

Parole Officers Al Bonfiglio and Art Reardon are working with the Hartford Shooting Team due to their in-depth knowledge of the city's criminal element and the makeup of their caseloads. Both Officers Bonfiglio and Reardon are assigned all cases citywide that involve the current or past use of weapons, and they, along with Parole Officer II John Lindgren also cover all cases assigned to the cities north end. In addition, they work with the Hartford Police North Conditions Unit. These collaborations have not only helped to enhance law enforcement's visibility in the community, but have also led to the seizure of several weapons, as well as a large amount of narcotics.

The team began investigating shootings July 5, and has driven down the number of shootings in the city. They have made 15 arrests since the beginning of July. As of mid-August, a little more than a month after the Hartford Shooting Team began investigating shootings in the city, incidents have decreased by 66.7 percent and the number of shooting victims has decreased by 70 percent, according to Hartford officials.

Around the Cell Block



Maryland – The state's Public Service Commission is considering plans for what could be Maryland's largest solar farm on state prison land. The developers are seeking certification for a 20-megawatt solar-panel array on 250 acres near a medium-security facility.

New Jersey – Two New Jersey men have been accused of duping inmates and their families by running a phony nonprofit organization offering legal services to inmates. "Project Freedom Fund" charged \$350, marketing themselves as a watchdog agency over inadequate public defenders.

Mississippi – A man tried to walk out of a grocery store without paying for food items he had stuffed into his cargo shorts, including live lobsters. Police say the man tried to escape by throwing a pork loin at employees at the local Winn Dixie, but fell while running away.

**Total
Supervised
Population
on
September 13, 2011**

22,526

**On September 13, 2010
the population was
23,267**



Did You Know?

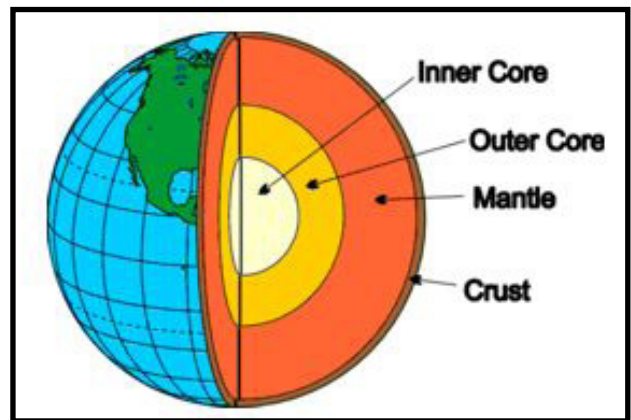
“Did You Know” is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Services Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This article was written by Jay Harder, Plant Facilities Engineer I, and questions relating to it may be answered by contacting him at 860-692-7558. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at (860) 692-7554.

Interesting Astronomical Facts

I thought I'd write about a number of amazing facts gleaned from astronomy articles that I have read recently. I'd like to start with interesting facts that astronomers and scientists have discovered or theorized about Earth and our solar system.

Gravity and Mountains. Did you know the size or mass of a planet will dictate how high its mountains can be? The tallest possible height of a mountain is controlled by the mass and in turn the gravity of a planet. The taller the mountain, the more gravity tries to squash it down under its own weight to “equilibrium” or sea level in Earth's case. Mt. Everest is at the limit of how high a mountain can be on Earth above sea level. Although there are mountains taller than Everest on Earth, they are all below sea level, under water. Mars, which has about half the gravity of Earth, has a mountain, Olympus Mons, twice as high as Mt. Everest. A standard rule of planet mechanics is, a mountain's maximum height is dictated by the mass or gravity of that planet. Stronger gravity, smaller mountains, weak gravity, taller mountains.

Water and Earth. Water was very abundant in the early formation of our solar system and can be found on just about every planet in some form. Astronomers believe Earth formed with possibly more water than is present today but most of this water was shed or boiled off the young Earth during a phase of heavy bombardment by asteroids. If you can imagine Earth or any large planetary object acting like a big magnet, attracting and sweeping in any nearby asteroids as it makes its orbit around the sun. Water was boiled off the surface of Earth during all these collisions. Comets, disturbed from their orbits in the outer regions of our solar system by the huge gas planets, started impacting Earth, reseeding it with water. Imagine how many comets must have struck the Earth to create the oceans, rivers, and lakes we have today. Scientists believe that there are several oceans of water trapped in the rock of Earth's mantle. The mantle is a layer of rock beneath earth's crust that is about 120 miles thick. Forms of water are trapped in the minerals of the mantle, which, if could be extracted would equal another Atlantic or Pacific Ocean.



Moon, sun and tides. I was reading an article where a question was asked, “Since the moon and the sun appear to be the same size in the sky (think solar eclipses) why does the moon's gravity affect the Earth's oceans in the form of tides but the sun doesn't?” To be exact, the sun does affect our oceans but to a much lesser degree. If you think about it, it's a logical question. The sun is millions of times larger than our moon but because of its distance from the Earth it appears to be the same size. If two objects appear to be the same size, why is one's gravity so much stronger than the other? The reason is density. The moon, which is a terrestrial body like Earth, is about two times denser than our sun so its gravitational effect will be two times that of the sun on our oceans since they both appear to be the same size in the sky. Remember the sun is made up of gas, hydrogen and helium, so for all its size it has less gravitational pull than a terrestrial planet of equal size.

Wonderful Work Ethic



Congratulations to Correctional Managed Health Care's Patricia Billington for winning a PAWS award from the University of Connecticut Health Care Center. PAWS is an acronym for Part of a team, Awesome attitude, Wonderful work ethic, Superior Service is an employee recognition program run by the Human Resources Department of the UConn Health Center.

A Secretary II, Ms. Billington has worked at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution for more than 20 years. She was nominated for the award by Health Services Administrator Mary Marto. In nominating Ms. Billington, Health Services Administrator Marto wrote:

"... Pat sets an example for all that a UCONN Health Center/CMHC employee should be. She was the coach and leader for Civility Training held this spring; she is always pleasant, making everyone seem special; she goes the extra mile in order to ensure patient care needs are met whether it is through ordering of supplies for a patient, locating a health record, or calling other facilities in order to obtain what is needed. Pat listens actively to what others are saying; she is patient and generates remarkable results in her work through teamwork with her fellow employees. Phone callers ask for Pat when calling the unit – she is the "go to" person for the facility with a smile in her voice, upbeat attitude and calm demeanor. Pat is a quick study when it comes to adapting to change and becomes the point person others

go to in order to understand and implement change. Pat consistently exceeds expectations in her role, and brings outstanding organization to projects to which she is assigned. Pat's genuinely positive attitude spreads throughout the department. She is deserving of this PAWS award for all of these positive attributes she brings to the work unit and displays on a daily basis."

Ms. Billington received her award on August 25, at a reception held at the UConn Health Center. Congratulations on receiving this well-deserved honor.

Veterans Resource Expo 2011

September 30th

Central Connecticut State University
Student Center, Alumni Hall

1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050



For More Information Contact:

William C. Tierney - Veterans Affairs Officer
(860) 240-4894 william.tierney@sba.gov

Fishing Fever at Northern CI Correction Officers Named Anglers of the Year Title

Correction Officers Chris Blais and Dave Dardanelli have been crowned the U.S.A. Bassin Tournament Trail's "Anglers of the Year." For the past two years the two Northern Correctional Institution Officers have competed in the Massachusetts State Division of U.S.A. Bassin's National Tournament Trail, which is described as a grass roots team tournament trail, catering to the weekend angler and our youth. The team finished second overall last year, but this year were able to come away with the top prize. It was a close race this year as three teams were vying for the title with only one regular season tournament remaining. Blais and Dardanelli finished first at the final event and outdistanced the rest of the field, earning enough points for the title.

Aside from baiting hooks and casting lines, the pair of anglers has also been acting as unofficial ambassadors for the CT Department of Correction during the fishing tournaments. Well respected among other contestants both on and off the water, Blais and Dardanelli agree that one of the reasons for the respect is that it is no secret that they work for the Connecticut Department of Correction.

"The Tournament organizers always let people know what we do, I am not sure why, but people look at us a little different, and approach us regularly", Dardanelli explained. "It has been a positive experience for us as I feel we have represented the Department of Correction well throughout our travels. For example, we have helped out with food drives at these events, and even in one case, we assisted a distressed boat with one of the occupants being handicapped", Blais added. The team will try to keep up their winning ways at this year's Regional Championship to be held in October.



Correction Officers Chris Blais and Dave Dardanelli. Photo courtesy of the Bass Bureau/Billy "Hawkeye" Decoteau.

Pay to Park Osborn and Northern

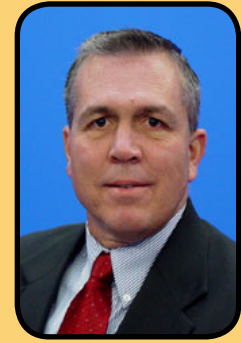
July 29, 2011 was a hot and sticky day, but the staff from Osborn CI and Northern CI weren't bothered by that at all. They had too important of a job to do to let the heat and humidity stand in their way. So they stood in the driveway of the Osborn/Northern complex with donation buckets emblazoned with the Special Olympics logo in their hands asking their fellow staff to donate their pocket change. And that pocket change certainly added up! Organized by Lt. Maria Rios of Osborn and Records Specialist Robin Nedjioka of Northern, this joint Pay-to-Park raised a total of \$926.00 for Special Olympics. "People threw in everything from nickels and dimes to dollar bills to ten dollar bills," said Officer J. Diaz, Osborn CI. "We appreciate all of the donations and are proud to support Special Olympics." Lt. Rios and Ms. Nedjioka expressed their gratitude to the staff at both institutions, particularly Officer S. Spencer from Osborn and Counselor Supervisor Carlene Davis and Secretary Nancy Begnoche from Northern CI. "It is great when we work together as a team for special activities such as this," Lt. Rios said. "Thank you to all who participated for their time and efforts in assisting, and thank you to all for their generosity."



Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of August 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
Thorpe, Wesley	Fscl./Adm. Asst	Central Off.	8/9/1991
McAlpine, William	Corr. Electrician	York CI	8/9/1991
Canas, Lorrie	StateSchoolTeacher	MYI	1/11/1991
Pidgeon, Michele	Deputy Warden	WCCI	7/27/1991



**Warden
John Tarascio**

Employees with 25 Years of Service as of August 2011

Fortunato, Christine	Grants & Con. Man.	Central Off.	8/1/1986
Cahill, Catherine	Secretary II	Central Off.	8/13/1986
Schott, Michelle	Dir. Fiscal Serv.	Central Off.	4/25/1986



**Fiscal Services Dir.
Michelle Schott**

Employees with 35 Years of Service as of August 2011

Tarascio, John	Warden II	WCCI	8/13/1976
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Eternal Gratitude



Emanuel Igidi

After the tragic murder of Hartford Correctional Center's Officer Emanuel Igidi's brother, staff from the Department of Correction collected donations so that Officer Igidi's brother could be flown back and laid to rest in his native Nigeria. What follows is the text of a letter of appreciation from Officer Igidi addressed to Hartford Correctional Center's Warden, Walter Ford:

On 7/14/11, my brother, Mr. Andrew Igidi, who was murdered in Hartford on May 30, 2011 in an attempted robbery, started his last journey from the United States to Nigeria where he will be laid to rest.

I am writing to thank you and to express my gratitude to my correctional family for making this journey possible for him. But for your generosity and kindness, the financial requirements would have affected my ability to send him home in a timely manner. Had that happened, a lot of questions would have been raised by community leaders, traditional

chiefs, family members, his wife and children. Therefore, I will forever remain grateful to those who stepped forward at this very challenging period to support me in one way or the other.

I am also very grateful to my brothers and sisters at Cheshire Correctional Institution whom, after these many years, still have my best interest at heart. I can only hope that someday, I will have the opportunity to return the favor.

Finally, I cannot conclude this letter without commending Captain Hall, third shift supervisors, and officers who put together over seventy-five percent of the donation I received from the Department. It was quite impressive and I thank all from my heart. I look forward to returning to work as soon as practicable. Thanks.

Yours Sincerely,
Emanuel Igidi.

CONNECTICUT Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Run



October 22, 2011
09:30 AM

Middletown,
Connecticut

Join us for the 2nd Annual
Connecticut
Law Enforcement Officers
Memorial 5K Run!



Special Prizes for Law Enforcement Teams!

Each DOC facility may form a team of officers

Teams must have 3+ runners

Winning team will be determined by the average of each team's top three finishers

Prizes awarded to the top three teams!

Register NOW! www.ctleomr.org

All proceeds benefit the National Law Enforcement Officers
Memorial Fund



National Law Enforcement Officers
MEMORIAL FUND
RESPECT. HONOR. REMEMBER.



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