



# DIVISION NEWSLETTER

*Mission: The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees, and detainees and offenders under its supervision.*

Winter 2007/2008

## Letter from the Commissioner

Interim Commissioner J. Michael Stouffer



Fellow Employees,

Over these past few months as Interim Commissioner I have learned one very important thing about Division of Correction employees – you have BIG hearts. It is not often that you find a staff, as large and widespread as ours that can come together so graciously when it comes to giving back to the community.

I first noticed this with the Maryland Charities Campaign events in October. DPSCS has raised over \$200,000 for 2008. The Campaign will be having a second push in February where we hope to increase our participation even further. I even got arrested for the cause! Thankfully, enough DOC employees joined in the excitement and came up with my bail.



This is just one example of what this department does for our communities on a regular basis. As you will see in this issue, institutions across Maryland took up donations, adopted families and participated in community events during the Holiday Season to bring cheer to our neighbors and those less fortunate.

In the New Year, I hope to see this spirit continue. The job that you do on a daily basis is service enough to the State of Maryland, but it is a true testament to the level of dedication our employees give to the well-being of fellow Marylanders when you go above and beyond.

*J. Michael Stouffer*

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## DOC Gives Thanks During the Holiday Season by Showing Our Generosity

### *Offenders Reach Across International Borders to Donate*

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Chaplain Bob Lashinsky, of the Hagerstown region, took up a collection this holiday season of international proportions. After hearing the story of a Baltimore native who became a doctor so that he could help children in Haiti receive better medical care, Chaplain Lashinsky started asking his congregations from RCI, MCTC and MCI-H if they wanted to donate. The offenders opened their hearts and contributed a total of \$500 for this Haitian hospital! The story was also featured in the Herald-Mail of Hagerstown. A wonderful gift for a worthy cause.

### *Community Outreach*

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Left to right: Lieutenant Vivian L. Staten, Sergeant Sonji Lynn, Captain Charles Cave, Sergeant Keith Randolph, Sergeant Stacy Bell, and Lieutenant Shavella Miles.

JCI collected 12 boxes of food items for families in the Baltimore area during the Thanksgiving season. Eleven of the families were found through a program at the Baltimore City Health Department, the 12<sup>th</sup> family was found at a church attended by Captain Keene. The staff did an overwhelming job of coming together to make the holiday brighter for those in need.

### *MTC Shares the Holiday Spirit*

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The Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC) was able to provide three deserving families with generous and genuine acts of giving this holiday season. One mother of three small children, nominated by the Rose Street Community Center, a Transitional Housing Agency, and a family nominated by the Johnson Square Elementary School, were furnished with various items collected by MTC staff. The third family was a staff member who suffered a devastating fire; clothing, food, toys and other items were collected since this terrible ordeal occurred, and were presented to the family during the Holiday Season. Warden Hill presented the baskets of goodies to these families on behalf of MTC who has truly given back to their community.

MTC also continued their annual Breakfast with Santa event by supplying children of a nearby school with a delicious breakfast and books from Santa Claus. Each of the 277 children also got their turn to sit on Santa's lap (former MTC Correctional Officer Maurice Smith) and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

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*Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving*

This Thanksgiving Maryland Correctional Enterprises' Meat Plant at MCI-H prepared 500 turkeys to help the Bea Gaddy Foundation provide food for the homeless in Baltimore. Officers T. Dailey, L. Brown and K. Davis also escorted 13 offenders from the Baltimore Pre-Release Unit for Women to help serve food to the hungry and pass out clothing at the Annual Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving Day Event. They also participated in a clean-up project at Patterson Park Recreational Center.



Community Service Clean-Up

By: Bill Jewell, WCI

Four minimum security inmates from the Western Correctional Institution (WCI) along with two maintenance officers, Joe Perkins and Francis Finzel, cleaned the area at Dan's Rock Overlook on a cool fall day in October.



The four offenders dressed in yellow, filled a dump truck with 30 large trash sacks, a large vandalized sign and several discarded appliances.

Damaged concrete blocks were cut and repositioned to build a retaining wall, weeds, grass and dead trees were also removed. The debris removal and clean-up was a two day project which gave the inmates an opportunity to use their skills and a chance to give something back to the community.



Bill C. Jewell, Administrative Officer, said Dan's Rock at 2,893 feet, offers a panoramic view to the east, south, north, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. It was named for Dan Cresap, an early settler of the area. He is currently looking for more projects similar to this one and is in the process of talking with the National Park Service to use inmate labor to clean portions of the C&O Canal and maintenance along the Allegheny Highlands Trails.

## Feature ~ DOC Commitment Unit Conference

By: Jodie Stouffer, Director

On September 25 and 26, 2007, Tina Geraghty, Commitment Records Specialist Supervisor, Western Regional Commitment Office; Bob Allen, Commitment Records Specialist, Central Commitment Records Center and Jodie Stouffer, Director of Commitment attended a national conference and training workshop in Springfield, Illinois. The conference was organized by the National Association of Correctional Records Administrators and Supervisors (NACRAS) and was sponsored by the Illinois Department of Corrections.

A total of 130 employees from 28 states attended the event. The event began with an opening ceremony, Presentation of the Colors by the Illinois DOC Honor Guard, and encouraging words from Director Walker, Illinois DOC (agency head for IDOC-equivalent of Commissioner/MD DOC).

The mission of NACRAS is to:

- promote the profession of offender records management,
- share new and existing technologies,
- establish release protocols that lead to greater public safety
- improve formulas and methodologies for sentence calculations, and
- develop a network of Sentence Computation Specialist/Record Office professionals.

Participants were offered training in the following areas:

- Courtroom Protocol
- Motivation/Team Building
- Walsh Act
- Sex Offender Registry/Sexually Dangerous Persons
- Detention and Deportation Procedures/Extradition Procedures



Left to right: Jodie Stouffer; Director Walker (agency head), Illinois Dept of Corrections; and Glenn Jackson, Chief Records Officer, IDOC

Panel Discussions were held to discuss Victim Services, Pros & Cons of Centralization and Improper Releases-Regaining Public Trust. Participants also observed vendor demonstrations of the latest technology in offender records management software.

NACRAS is the first and only organization to recognize the unique concerns and training needs of staff that manage offender sentencing and release information. NACRAS also provides a forum to discuss best practices related to managing sentencing and release information. NACRAS is also pursuing affiliate membership with the American Correctional Association.

### *Working Together for the Greater Good*

Last year the DOC Security Emergency Response Team (SERT) was in desperate need of proper equipment that would allow them to accurately and safely perform their duties. Steve Shiloh, Executive Director of Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE), saw an opportunity. He knew MCE could spare the estimated \$38,000 needed to purchase the equipment that included uniforms, protective apparatus and tactical gear. More importantly, he saw this as a chance to demonstrate that the well-being of fellow correctional employees is an important aspect of the mission of MCE. The Security Operations team of DOC works diligently to protect the employees and inmates in the division, including those that work with MCE to give offenders valuable job skills and training. MCE's action to help their colleagues is a classic example of the importance of working together to meet an overall goal.

## Innovative Programs Around the Division

### *Death as a Part of Life*

On Sunday December 16, 2007, MCI-J held their First Annual Memorial Service. The non-denominational event, developed by Chaplain Reginald Bellamy and approved by Warden Carolyn Atkins, was initiated to give offenders the opportunity to grieve over loved ones they have lost during their incarceration. Pictures were placed on a table of flowers for remembrance.



Grief, anger and guilt over not being present during the passing of a family member can be a dangerous combination in a masculine prison setting where showing emotions is taboo. Instead, these men packed the hall of the MCI-J education building during three separate programs to listen to Chaplain Bellamy and religious services volunteers give heart-felt messages of life, love and the meaning of death.

### *Home Cooking*

The English as a Second Language class at MCI-J came up with a creative way to hone their English skills while remembering an enjoyable pastime from their home life – Cooking! Each student translated a favorite family recipe into English for a cookbook that the graphic art students formatted and printed in book format. Try the Steamed Iguana, as the final step in the instructions reads “Eat and Be Strong”

### *Music in the Air*

Music will soon fill the halls of the Maryland Correctional Training Center (MCTC), or at least that is the hope of Barbara Allen, Volunteer Activities Coordinator for the institution. Barbara was one of the first American prison representatives selected to receive a guitar from Jail Guitar Doors, a group founded by British musician Billy Bragg, who began collecting money through benefit performances by fellow musicians in an effort to purchase guitars for prisons overseas.

Music is Barbara’s passion. When she heard about the potential guitar donation she jumped at the opportunity and contacted Jail Guitar Doors. Her intention is to establish inmate bands of various musical backgrounds at the Hagerstown area facility. A long term goal of Barbara’s is that offenders will receive music lessons as well as be involved in activities and programs that will reduce idle time, teach a skill and provide education. The ultimate goal is to involve inmates in meaningful activities that will foster a successful re-entry upon release. That’s music to everyone’s ears.



Left to right: Joe Shade of Jail Guitar Doors, Barbara Allen of MCTC and Papi Kymone Freeman of Prison Poetry.

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### *DOC K-9 Unit Breeding and Puppy Program*

The Maryland DOC K-9 breeding program began out of necessity in early 2006. The K-9 unit has, since its inception in 1981, relied on breeds such as Labradors, Golden Retrievers and Springer Spaniels to work as narcotic detection dogs. These dogs are hunting breeds, well known for their scenting abilities and also non-threatening both in appearance and demeanor, which is an important consideration when searching visitors to our institutions. For years we depended on donated dogs from individuals and the local shelters to fill this need. Due to past experiences or a lack of training or socialization during their early developmental stages, the dogs were unable to cope with the noise inside a correctional facility or unwilling to walk on metal grates, walk on slick floors, negotiate steps, etc. Their level of insecurity rendered them ineffective in the correctional environment.



Capt. Anderson with the future of the DOC K-9 Unit.

As the K-9 unit's training methods and expectations evolved, we began to purchase dogs for detection work. At this time suitable candidates were readily available at a cost of approximately \$1,200. After 9/11 the demand for explosive detection dogs dramatically increased throughout the law enforcement community. Due to supply and demand the cost of detector dogs went up to approximately \$4,000.

In early 2006 Capt. Pete Anderson began to research the feasibility of a breeding program to specifically address the need for superior detector dogs at a reasonable cost to the taxpayers of Maryland and specifically the DOC.

As of early 2006 U.S. Customs began their own breeding program as did the Auburn University's Canine & Detection Research Institute. Auburn University reports "the aim of the cooperative detector dog program is to selectively breed Labrador Retrievers based on working performance and reduction of the incidence of career limiting health conditions to provide a much needed resource of high quality detection dogs." Auburn's Canine Detector Training Center Deputy Director Mr. John Pearce informed me that they currently foster puppies out to CCA institutions in Florida, Georgia and Kentucky. The success rate of the puppies raised in the correctional facilities is in excess of 80%.



After conducting a cost analysis we found that the total cost for each puppy, including the cost of the dam, assuming the production and retention of 15 puppies is approximately \$967.

A formal proposal was submitted and approved through DOC Headquarters in the spring of 2006. With the help of Pat Nolan, owner of Ponderosa Kennels in Smithsburg, MD we were able to locate Cayenne, an excellent black lab to begin our program. Cayenne was not just to serve as a mother to our pups, she was also trained to do drug detection with Sgt. Brian Kyle and continues to work out of WCI.

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In November 2006, we began the birthing process of our first litter. We were surprised to end this process with 12 healthy puppies, a very large litter. Their training began from birth by acclimating the pups to loud noises. In the weeks to come countless hours were spent socializing the pups, introducing them to walking on different surfaces, (metal grates, slick floors), teaching them to negotiate steps, and beginning the game of chasing balls and towels. By eight weeks of age many of the environmental factors that prove too much of an obstacle for many adult dogs had been eliminated. At five weeks of age we began a log for each puppy, documenting each pups progress, their levels of confidence, their desire to play with and possess toys, etc. These logs were then used to select the best suited six puppies from the first litter to retain for the DOC. These six puppies were then fostered by our handlers as an added and uncompensated responsibility until January 2008 when they would officially begin a ten week narcotic detection school.

As this first litter's formal training begins, their protégés already are eagerly waiting their opportunity to join in the fun. The second litter born December 5, 2007, consisting of three females and seven males is already six weeks old and as rambunctious as their predecessors.

This puppy program shows great promise. As the first breeding program in the corrections community, it is something we can all be very proud of. We undoubtedly will learn much along this journey and experience some setbacks; however we will also undoubtedly continue to be in the forefront of the modernization of K-9 Units throughout the country.

A special thanks goes out to Lt. Rodney Jordan (DOC K-9 Trainer), who assisted with the birth of the litters and remains very committed to the success and best interests of the puppies. Also Sgt. Craig Blank, Sgt. Eric Kretzer, Sgt. Jamie Moats, Lt. Mark Flynn, and Sgt. Keene Wong who fostered the first litter of pups, bringing them in to their homes, all of which was volunteer work.



It's a Boy! Well actually seven boys and three girls. The DOC K-9 Unit welcomes their second litter of home-bread puppies.



2007 Annual DOC Golf Tournament Winners from left to right: Marc Whiteside, Denny Mellott, Jeff Shimko, Steve Zollner. This year's tournament was held at Wisp Resort in Mchenry, MD.

## Staff Recognition &amp; Achievements

<b><u>2007 DOC HQ Years of Service</u></b>		
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Wanda Miller	Admin. Officer I	25
Nancy Freedenburg	Off. Secretary III	25
Alenthia Epps	Corr. Case Management Spec. II	20
Tony Warfield	CO Sgt.	20
Angel Gonzales	Corr. Case Management Spec. II	20
Sheila Crudup	Commitment Records Spec. II	20
Roslyn Murray	Commitment Records Spec. Lead	20
Jay Miller	Program Manager II	15
Benjamin Bacon	CO Sgt.	15
Burford Otis	CO Captain	15
Wanda Nash	Commitment Records Spec. Supervisor	15
Erica Jenkins	Commitment Records Spec. II	15
Brenda Smith	Admin. Officer I	10
La-Tricia Taylor	Corr. Hearing Officer II	10
Angela Edmondson	Agency Budget Spec. II	10
Mark Flynn	CO Lt.	10
Brenda Witherspoon	Management Associate	10
Christopher Caudell	CO Sgt.	5
Tina Shankle	Office Services Clerk	5
Lisa Wood	Director, Human Resources, DOC HQ	5
Tamika Davis	Commitment Records Spec I	5
<b><u>Retirements</u></b>		
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Years of Service (if given)</b>
Marcellus Elsey	MRDCC	
Robert Vance	MRDCC	
Cartiair Butler	MRDCC	
Karen Johnson-Hill	MRDCC	
Shirley Holliday, Commit. Rec. Lead Spec.	DOC Headquarters	28
<b><u>Promotions</u></b>		
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Title</b>
Angela Bailey	MRDCC	COII
Vickie Smith	MRDCC	Fis. Acct. Clk. Supv.
Mary Chambers	MRDCC	Per. Spec. Trainee
<b><u>Commissioner's Citation Recipients</u></b>		
<b>Employee</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Quarter, Year</b>
Michael King, Security Chief	ECI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Kevin King, Captain	ECI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Walter Holmes, Captain	ECI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
M. Flynn, Lieutenant	K-9 Unit	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Sandi Sidler, Graphic Designer	MCE	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Marcy Cline	MCTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Jeffery B. Shank, Correctional Officer	MCTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Brian Shank, Correctional Officer	MCTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Jeffery Brewer, Sergeant	NBCI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Terry Ashenfelter, Correctional Officer II	NBCI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Larry Miller, Major	RCI	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Rufus Norman, Correctional Officer	MTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Joseph Baylor, Correctional Officer	MTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
William Pumphrey, Correctional Officer	MTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007



**Commissioner's Citation Recipients (cont.)**

Employee	Institution	Quarter, Year
Trina Corbett, Correctional Officer,	MTC	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Marsha Briley, Transition Coordinator	MCIW	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Anne Shaw, Assistant Chaplain	MCIW	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Brandi Skinner, CCMC I	MCIW	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Buford Otis, Captain	Security Operations	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Matthew Brown, Lieutenant	Security Operations	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Josh Hummer, Sergeant	Security Operations	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Rogelio Soto, Corporal	Security Operations	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Yvette McClary, Office Secretary II	MCAC	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Mark Rowley, Fiscal Director	MCE	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
James Kalbflesh, COII	RCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Major Lennard Johnson, Director	ICU	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Capt. Phil Smith, Assistant Director	ICU	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Marion Webster	ECI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Lt. Yolanda Jackson, Corr. Dietary Spvr.	MCIW	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Bianca Elliott, CCMSI	BPRUW	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Mya Collins, CCMSII	BPRUW	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Karla Hill-Peay, CCMSII	BPRUW	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Christopher Perry, COII	MCIJ	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Capt. Edward Burl	MCIJ	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Willard Smith, COII	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
John Watson, COII	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
James Smith, COII	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Adeniran Iyanoye, COII	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Arnold Johnson	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Stanley Whittaker	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Franklin Merchant	JCI	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Lt. Annette Dyer, Transfer Coordinator	DOC Case Management	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Regina Arqueta, CCMSII	DOC Case Management	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Eka Thomas	MTC (In service of DOC HQ)	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Markwood Mackenzie, CO	MCTC (In service of DOC HQ)	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Shavonne Lee	JCI (In service of DOC HQ)	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007
Sgt. Colin Detrick	NBCI (In service of DOC HQ)	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007

**DOC HQ Employee's of the Quarters**

Employee	Title	Quarter, Year
Janine Taylor	Central Commitment	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2007
Kendall Gifford	Chief of Case Management	2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2007
Angela Giles	DOC Victim Services Unit	3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2007
Jay Miller	IT Manager	4 <sup>th</sup> , 2007

**Wanted...**

...articles for the next DOC Newsletter. Have something you want to share with staff ~ just drop us a line. All articles should be submitted to Danielle Wilmsen at: [dwilmsen@dpscs.state.md.us](mailto:dwilmsen@dpscs.state.md.us) by March 26, 2008. And don't forget the photos ~ we love photos!

Upcoming Events 2008 ~

April ~ Commissioner's Employee Recognition Ceremony ~ 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

- May ~
- Correctional Employee Appreciation Week
  - Special Olympics Maryland Tug-of-War Games

