



Corrections and Community Supervision

Puppies Behind Bars Graduation Held At Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

August 6, 2015

Inmates from Bedford Hills Correctional Facility along with four puppies took part in the Dog Tags graduation ceremony on August 4th. The graduation is the end result of the Puppies Behind Bars program where prison inmates, from three facilities, raised service dogs for veterans from the Iraq, and Afghanistan wars and for law enforcement officials who search for dangerous explosive devices. The puppies arrive at Bedford Hills when they are eight weeks old and undergo training for 16 weeks with their assigned inmate trainer. After the training is complete the veterans arrive at the facility for several weeks of learning along side of the inmates on how to execute proper commands. The program achieves several goals including building confidence through socialization, learning commands, obedience work, and being able to go into public places. Training was conducted between puppy raisers, veterans, and the Director of Puppies Behind Bars, Ms. Gloria Gilbert Stoga. DOCCS Acting Commissioner Anthony J. Annucci spoke at the ceremony. To read Acting Commissioner Annucci's speech, [click here](#).

