



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
THE HARRIMAN STATE CAMPUS
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ALBANY, N.Y. 12226-2050

GLENN S. GOORD
COMMISSIONER

May 12, 2004

To All Employees:

The employees of the Department of Correctional Services perform their duties in a professional and dedicated manner. Your record documents that inmates, visitors and the public are all being treated in accordance with Departmental rules and directives.

Recent incidents in Iraq have raised serious questions about the actions of some American soldiers staffing prisons there. That has led to a "trickle-down" effect. Some media have begun comparing those circumstances to instances of inmate abuse in state prison systems around our Nation. None of those stories have questioned the performance of employees in this Department.

All employees are reminded of their obligation to continue to provide humane inmate treatment in accordance with Departmental rules and regulations. Each employee is also reminded of your responsibility to report any violations of those rules and regulations.

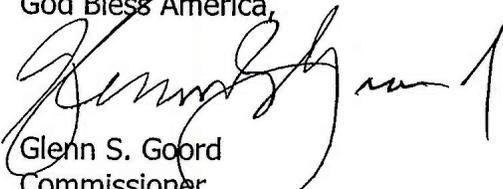
Our correctional workforce is the best trained and the most professional in the Nation. Your individual character and professionalism is the hallmark of what we stand for as an agency.

Each of us should recommit ourselves to the high standards and humane conduct that are the core of this agency's operations.

Millions of Americans are rightfully offended by the alleged actions of some military personnel staffing Iraq's prisons. However, in no way should anyone allow the actions of these few to taint our support and respect for the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers who have or will serve this Nation in *Operation Iraqi Freedom*.

We honor them best by ensuring our own commitment to the humane standards for which they are fighting.

God Bless America,



Glenn S. Goord
Commissioner