

DOCS



TODAY

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New York State Department of Correctional Services

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Budget plan will keep prisons safe, secure



Commissioner Goord addresses a joint session of the Legislature's fiscal committees to assure them staff safety and security remain the Governor's top priorities despite a fiscal deficit that demands every agency reduce its spending. With him is Chauncey Parker, the Governor's Director of Criminal Justice and Commissioner of the Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Coming next month ...



Inmate drug testing effective



Inmates fill a lot of sandbags

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ON THE COVER: The masthead brings DOCS|TODAY together with its past via "Copper John," the Colonial soldier who has stood watch atop the front gate of Auburn, the state's oldest prison, since 1821. The American flag was affixed to his bayonet in memory of those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States. The flag itself was taken from a photograph of it flying above Ground Zero.

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Governor proposes tougher DWI laws, punishments

In the wake of the tragic deaths of Yartza Santos, her son Manuel Noriega Villot, and Nery Mejia on February 5, Governor Pataki renewed his call for his comprehensive seven-point plan that would allow for consecutive sentences, stiffer penalties for crimes related to driving while intoxicated and give prosecutors new tools to protect public safety.

The plan, named the Pena-Herrera Bill, was drafted in 2001 in response to the terrible deaths of the young Herrera family in Sunset Park Brooklyn, at the hands of Officer Joseph Gray. Officer Gray was convicted of four counts of second-degree manslaughter. Despite the fact that Officer Gray was convicted of killing four people, current law does not allow for consecutive sentences in his case.

“Yesterday’s senseless deaths underscore the need to give judges the ability to impose consecutive sentences if more than one person is injured or killed as a result of a single criminal act,” Governor Pataki said. “This horrific crime also exemplifies the need for tougher penalties for vehicular manslaughter.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the Santos and the Mejia families. We will continue to hope and pray for the recovery of Ricky Mejia,” the Governor said.

Criminal Justice Director Chauncey G. Parker said, “Governor Pataki’s common-sense reforms will help prevent future tragedies. Increasing penalties for DWI and vehicular manslaughter will make people more accountable when they get behind the wheel, and hopefully prevent unnecessary injury and deaths.”

The Governor’s legislation is a seven-point safety plan. It would:

- Allow for consecutive sentences if more than one person is injured or killed as a result of one criminal act.
- Increase penalties for first-degree vehicular manslaughter from a Class C felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison, to a Class B felony, punishable by up to 25 years in prison, and increase penalties for second-degree vehicular manslaughter from a Class D felony, punishable by up to seven years in prison, to a Class C felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.
- Remove the requirement under current law that prose-



Governor Pataki

cutors prove criminal negligence when prosecuting cases of vehicular manslaughter in the second degree and vehicular assault in the second degree for causing death or serious physical injury while driving in an intoxicated condition.

- Create a new crime of aggravated DWI, a Class E felony, punishable by up to four years in prison, for anyone who is driving a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of .20 percent or more, a particularly high state of intoxication.

- Create a Class B felony crime, punishable by up to 25 years in prison, committed when a person operates a vehicle in violation of the speed

limit, knowing they are being pursued by a police officer, and thereby causes the death of another person.

- Create a new Class C felony crime, punishable by up to 15 years in prison, committed when a person operates a vehicle in violation of the speed limit, knowing he or she is being pursued by a police officer, and causes serious physical injury to another person.
- Even the scales of justice by extending to the prosecution the right to appeal bail decisions, comparable to the right long enjoyed by defendants. Federal and most other state prosecutors have this right.

Consecutive sentences:

Under current law, when a criminal injures or kills more than one victim through a single act or omission – such as driving a vehicle while intoxicated, setting a fire, exploding a bomb or firing a pistol or rifle – judges have no discretion to direct that the sentences imposed for the crimes committed against different victims be made to run consecutively.

As a result, the maximum penalty that can be imposed on a criminal who seriously injures, maims or kills two, five or 10 innocent victims through a single criminal act is no greater than the maximum sentence for one victim. Under the Governor’s proposal, when persons are charged with killing several innocent people by a single act, like in the case of February’s tragedy, judges would be empowered to impose consecutive sentences upon conviction. 

This fiscal year to be unlike any that came before it

9-11, economic downturn combine to offer our greatest challenge ever

As difficult as the budget plan was that I presented to the Legislature in February, the outlook has since become even worse for Fiscal '04 that begins this month.

The media has widely reported that the Governor's Division of the Budget notified agencies in mid-March that we are expected to reduce spending by more than the cuts outlined by the Governor in his 2003-04 Executive Budget proposal in January.

There are two culprits behind the deficit facing the state that runs in the neighborhood of \$10 billion: the lasting effects of the 9-11 terrorist attack on the downstate economic heart of our state, and the lingering economic woes that face Americans across our nation.

We are, arguably, the largest of New York's state agencies, with more than 32,000 employees and an annual operating budget approaching \$2 billion.

It goes without saying that we must be a leader in husbanding scarce tax dollars.

Governor Pataki and I will ensure that, while we do our part to reduce spending, we will continue to maintain the safest prison system in the nation.

The safety and security of our employees will always be our highest priority.

With that promise, we must adjust our operations to generate the savings that will enable our state to continue its operations without increasing such broad-based levies as the personal income and sales taxes.

By the time this edition of DOCS|TODAY is off the press at Elmira and in your hands, facilities across the state will have been notified as to what is expected of them.

Among other initiatives, we will be reducing spending and finding ways to avoid new expenses while meeting our mission and getting our jobs done in a safe and secure manner.

The operational changes that we implement are designed to maintain safety and security for staff and continuing programs for inmates.

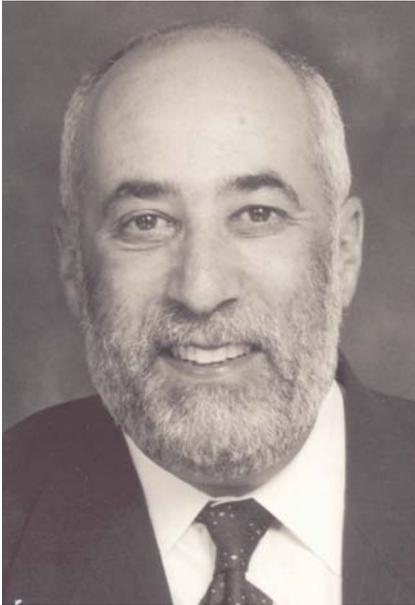
Some initiatives may be designed as short-term to help us through the early stages of the fiscal year beginning April first, others will be necessary throughout the year and even beyond.

Our employees are known for your ability to step forward and meet the many challenges that the state places before us. I know you will be equal to that task again this year.

But let me be clear: this will not be a "business as usual" year.

Unfair criticisms of imams

By now, most of you have read of the intemperate and reprehensible comments made to various media by Warith Umar, a retired imam who once served as coordinator of our Muslim chaplains.



Commissioner Goord

There were critics who then called for us to terminate all imams, reasoning that since virtually all 42 of them were hired by Mr. Umar, they must all share his extremist beliefs.

I could not disagree more: Like many of you, I have seen our imams' good work over the years and their post-9-11 efforts with their chaplain colleagues across our 71 facilities.

So let me be clear:

- I do not believe in guilt by association.
- I do believe that every employee should be evaluated on personal performance and consistent with the law.

Since 9-11, I sought to dismiss two imams who made inappropriate comments in our facilities. An arbitrator agreed with me in one case but limited the punishment of the second to a few months' suspension. That imam has since retired.

I also barred Mr. Umar from ever entering our prisons again.

Earlier this month, I suspended a fourth imam who was arrested as part of an investigation into the alleged illegal funneling of funds into Iraq. There is no indication his conduct was in any way connected to his role as a chaplain in a state prison.

The standard that I applied in each employee case was identical to what we use in evaluating the conduct of any of our employees, civilian or uniformed.

That is the way it must – and should – be.

More so than most private businesses and other state agencies, we have a stringent set of qualifications for our employees. Ours include background investigations, fingerprint checks and other measures. For uniformed staff, we also mandate psychological and medical screening.

Chaplains undergo background investigations and all must now be recommended by the regional ecclesiastic authority for their religion.

I believe it is dangerous for us to paint any group of citizens with the actions of a few – or even one – of them.

I want to assure each of you that you will be evaluated – and held accountable – based upon your individual conduct. 📖



Bare Hill CO Jesse Conger (seated) donates blood during a 2001 drive to collect pints for the survivors of 9-11. He and his colleagues from Bare Hill, Franklin and Upstate joined together with employees across the state in special efforts to assist those victims. But the need for blood donors today remains high, and officials are pleading for eligible New Yorkers to contribute again.

Blood donations needed in face of severe shortage

Health Commissioner pleads for donors to replenish banks needing help now

With the medical community facing a severe shortage that has put thousands of New York residents at risk, employees from DOCS and other state agencies are being asked to lend a hand by donating blood.

"I'm asking for all Department heads throughout the state to encourage their employees to donate blood, and to donate blood now," said state Department of Health Commissioner Antonia C. Novello, M.D.

"There is a real need out in the community," she said.

Employees from facilities throughout the state participate in dozens of organized blood donations drives each year, often weaving them in with their annual Make a Difference Day activities. As a result, they've been able to develop strong ties with members of local medical communities and the hope is that they can join as one now to fill the blood void.

"Our employees have always shown their concern for others in the community and I'm sure they'll be up to the task again and do all that they can to ensure that blood is made available," said Commissioner Goord. "I urge any Department employee who is eligible to give blood to do so, and to do so now. Our

neighbors in communities throughout New York state need your help."

Many facilities held blood drives in the wake of 9/11, and employees wound up donating hundreds of pints of blood to assist in the relief efforts. Deputy Commissioner of Health Services Dr. Lester Wright said the current need for blood may be even greater than it was in 2001. Dr. Wright said part of that is because the need for blood for transfusions is always present and is best met by regular, periodic blood donations rather than by compassionate response to a disaster or by frantic appeals when blood supplies run low.

Additionally, a decision this year by the medical community has pared the pool of potential blood donors when compared with the level of previous years.

In an effort to assure the safest blood supply possible, it was determined that people who had lived or spent extensive time in Europe might have a small risk of having been exposed to "Mad Cow" disease. The concern in the medical community was that those people might pose small risk of passing the disease onto others if they donated blood.

Thus, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) directed that their blood cannot be accepted for transfusions.

"That decision effectively decreased the number of people who are eligible to donate blood and it has also increased the responsibility for the rest of us to regularly donate blood if we are able," said Dr. Wright.

Potential blood donors must be 17 years of age and older, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. It is presumed that most of the Department's employees meet that criteria.

The FDA's ongoing mission to ensure the safest blood supply possible disallows blood donations from inmates because of their high incidence of various diseases. 

On the web ...

Readers with Internet access can obtain information on the world wide web from the offices of both Governor Pataki and Commissioner Goord. Their addresses:

Governor Pataki: <http://www.state.ny.us>

Commissioner Goord: <http://www.docs.state.ny.us/>

Commissioner details Fiscal '04 operations, spending

Legislators seek details on spending, downsizing and homeland security

Commissioner Goord and other criminal justice officials touched on many different topics during a joint legislative hearing on February 24 to discuss the proposed criminal justice services budget for the 2003-04 fiscal year and other DOCS-related issues.

Discussions during the nearly 2½-hour session concerned issues like Governor Pataki's continued "right-sizing" of the prison system; continued downsizing through the early release of certain select nonviolent inmates; staffing levels; DOCS' role in homeland security; reform of the Rockefeller drug laws; relations with the in-house Muslim community; educational offerings; staff training; the collect call telephone system for inmates and the family visiting program.

Also testifying at the hearing with Commissioner Goord were Division of Criminal Services Director Chauncey G. Parker, Division of State Police Superintendent James McMahon and Division of Parole Chairman Brion Travis.

Sen. Michael Nozzolio, R-Fayette, chairman of the Senate Committee on Crime Victims, Crime and Corrections, spoke on Governor Pataki's continued downsizing of the prison population and his proposal to make even more nonviolent inmates eligible for early release; they first would have to attain certain benchmarks and behave while in prison.

Governor Pataki's initiatives would expand the pool of nonviolent inmates who are eligible for Merit Time off their minimum sentences and those eligible for the Earned Eligibility Program which increases chances of inmate release upon completion of minimum sentences.

The Governor's plan would increase the number of earned releases by approximately 1,300 nonviolent offenders in the fiscal year that began April 1. Combined with a net reduction of 600 releases over admissions, the prison population is projected to be 65,100 by April of next year. That means the inmate population would have dropped 9 percent from its high of 71,538 in December 1999.

"The release of nonviolent offenders is not something new and the Department of Corrections has an expanded role in this

process," said Mr. Nozzolio.

Legislators said it is imperative that those inmates nearing release have the tools they need to succeed on the outside – be it in the form of alcohol and substance abuse treatment, education and/or vocational skills – and have an effective transitional plan in place before they return to the community. Mr. Nozzolio said he believes Commissioner Goord and his designees have been up to the task in ensuring that those goals are being met on a regular basis.

Director Parker concurred, saying that a focused and multi-pronged approach is taken before an inmate is released to provide them with the skills, knowledge and coping strategies to help keep them from returning to prison. Mr. Nozzolio pointed to releases from the Willard Drug Treatment Campus – where transitional plans are crafted through the collaborative efforts of DOCS, the Division of Parole and OASAS (the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuses Services) personnel – as testament to that focused mission.



More than a dozen Legislators asked questions as media cameras rolled.

Mr. Nozzolio said he was concerned that 344 security positions and 77 programming slots are slated to be eliminated by attrition as a result of the continued downsizing of the prison system.

"We need to take those budgetary steps," said Mr. Nozzolio. "However, once those items are

lost, they are lost. What happens if the inmate population increases?"

Commissioner Goord said the Department has contingency plans in place in the event the inmate population doesn't fall to expected levels and said the safety and security of staff and inmates will not be compromised. He pointed out that two new Correction Officer trainee classes were scheduled to begin in March at the Training Academy in Albany, meaning the Department will have at its disposal sufficient security staff to adequately staff prisons throughout the state.

Mr. Nozzolio also lauded the Department and personnel from other state agencies who have been guarding the Capitol and the New York City watershed since a short while after the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

"I want to recognize, congratulate and thank the outstanding work of the New York state police, Correction Officers and the Division of Military and Naval Affairs for providing additional

security that we all need at our government buildings and reservoirs, which are targets across the state,” said Mr. Nozzolio. “It’s through your loyal, dedicated work that we are providing the security that New Yorkers need.”

Mr. Nozzolio also asked if the federal government has reimbursed any of the involved agencies for its hefty overtime costs associated with the additional outside security duties.

“Senator, there’s been no federal reimbursement at this point,” said Mr. McMahon.

Sen. Malcolm Smith, D-Queens, also had high marks for Commissioner Goord and his staff when it comes to addressing the varied concerns of his constituents.

“Your office has been very responsive when it comes to answering our questions on medical care and other issues,” said Mr. Smith.

Democratic legislators also questioned administration officials on the prospects of reforming the harsh Rockefeller drug laws with an eye toward giving judges more discretion when it comes to meting out sentences, which they claimed in some instances are disproportionate when compared with the crime. Director Parker said he hoped some compromise can finally be reached this year between the executive and administrative branches and said that a reform of the laws is a top priority of Governor Pataki.

“Everyone agrees that 15 years to life is too much time for a nonviolent drug offender,” said Director Parker. “We should fix what we agree on right away and move on. Let’s come together and put it on the table.”

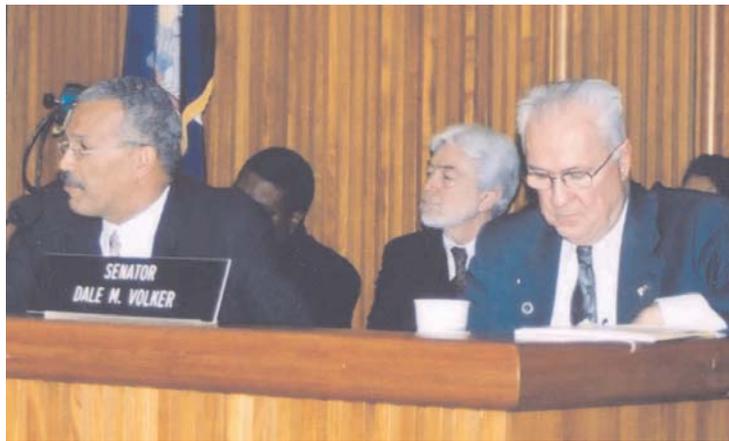
In his 2003-04 budget, Governor Pataki proposed letting drug offenders convicted of the highest-level, Class A-1, drug offense leave prison after 10 years if they serve “good time” – a one-third reduction of the longest sentence under the 1973 Rockefeller Drug Law.

The administration estimates about 200 of New York’s 500 A-1 drug inmates would be eligible to appeal their sentences. Combined with other proposed changes, like ending parole two years early for good behavior, the administration says the plan would save \$21.2 million.

Governor Pataki proposed the same plan last year. The Republican-controlled Senate approved it while the Democratic-controlled Assembly did not.

Assemblyman Herman Farrell, D-Manhattan, said he believes the Department’s contracted telephone services provider, MCI, is charging too much for inmate long-distance calls to their families.

“They are charging an inordinate amount,” he said.



Among those asking questions were Assembly Correction Committee Chairman Jeffrion Aubry (left) and Senate Codes Committee Chairman Dale Volker (right).

“I don’t think so,” said the Commissioner. He pointed out that the prison phone system is quite different from the one maintained in an average home because special equipment to monitor calls and other security enhancements are needed.

Mr. Farrell also asked why the Department does not solicit local vendors for telephone service. Commissioner Goord said they just don’t have the capability and technological expertise to meet the Department’s varied needs contained in a contract that is competitively bid.

While the Department has experienced problems with a few Muslim chaplains in the wake of 9-11 – two have been disciplined for remarks urging unrest against Americans and support for terrorists – Commissioner Goord told the committee there is no evidence of any Muslim association in New York that poses a threat to national security.

“The Muslim population has not been a problem since 9-11, and we don’t anticipate a problem,” Commissioner Goord said.

Commissioner Goord said there have been two incidents involving Muslim chaplains in the Department, but neither works in the prison system anymore. Additionally, Imam Warith Umar, who retired from the Department in 2000 but still had been allowed to visit prisons, has since been banned from the prison system for inflammatory remarks that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* and later amplified in other media, which appeared to support terrorists. A fourth imam has since been suspended following his arrest for activities outside of prison.

When asked what precautions the Department is taking to ensure that radical Muslims are not recruiting future terrorists within the prison system, Commissioner Goord answered:

“We are monitoring our system very closely.”

Assemblyman Jeffrion Aubry, D-Queens, chairman of the Assembly Correction Committee, also asked Commissioner Goord if there was any evidence of an organization in the prison system that posed a threat to the nation as a whole.

“Not that I know of,” replied Commissioner Goord.

Assemblyman Thomas Barraga, R-Islip, told Commissioner Goord that he believes regular visiting services should be enhanced for inmates in minimum- and medium-security facilities in order to help ensure that they can maintain strong family ties. He said he found it rather odd that inmates in maximum-security facilities can receive visitors any day of the week while inmates in a lower-security status can only receive visitors for specified times on weekends.

Commissioner Goord said that would not be feasible in these troubled financial times. While agreeing that maintaining strong family ties is important when it comes to rehabilitation, “it’s a basic budgetary issue,” the Commissioner said. ☐

CERT helping to ensure safety of all New Yorkers

Details along watershed, at state buildings special assignments come to an end soon

After more than a year and a half of dedicated public service aimed at protecting New Yorkers from terrorism, dozens of CERT members who have been guarding New York City's water supply since shortly after September 11 will soon be going back to their facilities.

Dozens of other CERT members, however, will continue to man strategic posts at the state Capitol in Albany until further notice.



CO Schreck checks a deliveryman's ID at the Capitol.

Officer aids trooper

On paper, the job description said that Mid-State Correction Officer and CERT member Michael Schreck would participate in providing 'round-the-clock security at the state Capitol and the adjoining South Mall complex in Albany.

Working together with the State Police, they conduct vehicle, handbag and briefcase searches, patrol the parking garage and other areas, shepherd people through metal detectors and make sure that everyone has proper identification. Their presence, professionalism and diligence has clearly helped maintain order. Their work is greatly appreciated by employees and visitors and – for the most part – the tour of duty has typically been routine and uneventful.

It was not that way the night of December 28.

And as result of the quick actions of CO Schreck and four troopers, Trooper Stephen Russom enjoyed a happy if not entirely healthy holiday season late last year.

"I owe them a lot," Trooper Russom said of the CO Schreck and the others. "They really helped me out of a totally unexpected and dangerous situation."

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During a joint legislative hearing on the state's proposed criminal justice services budget on February 24, Commissioner Goord told panel members that he expects all CERT members assigned to water supply security details to be replaced by officers from



Woodbourne Sgt. Robert Gill staffs the command center directing Officers working along the watershed.

the New York City Department of Environmental Police (DEP) by the summer. That would mark the end of a taxing yet rewarding assignment that has done the Department proud and enabled it to forge close working relationships with other agencies like the Division of State Police and the DEP.

"It's been a real good experience being able to work with the public," said Coxsackie Correction Officer Elvis Rios, who on a recent morning was checking the photo IDs of all state employees entering the Capitol from the concourse level.

"People don't really know what we do inside of the state's prisons," said CO Rios, whose Capitol security duties have been supplemented by state troopers. "Here, the public gets to see what we do, how we act and how we are professional. They respect us. Not a morning goes by when they don't thank us for the job we're doing."

It's a feeling that's been prevalent in places other than Albany.

"We feel as if we're performing a very vital function and our efforts have been recognized and appreciated," said Woodbourne Sgt. Robert Gill, who had been among the contingent of DOCS and DEP personnel protecting the city watershed. "The people in the community have been very grateful and the DEP has been a lot of help."

The downsizing of DOCS coverage began at the end of February – that's when watershed posts manned by CERT members from Eastern and Woodbourne were absorbed by DEP personnel – and will continue in stages over the ensuing months.

CERT members, state troopers and DEP officers have been working two 12-hour shifts every day. One would think the harsh winter would make the outdoor assignments less than desirable, but no one's complaining.

At a checkpoint along the city's watershed in mid-February, Eastern Officers David Sanchez and Gil Davis proudly told a visitor on a blustery winter's day how they've been welcomed and even embraced by the community. Officers are frequently getting letters from local residents thanking them for helping to keep their families safe.

The Officers said such plaudits are common and greatly appreciated.

"Since day one I've really felt great about what we've been doing," said CO Sanchez.

"Our efforts have really been appreciated," said CO Davis. "The local people are always waving at us."

At a separate nearby post, Eastern CO Mark Mills also spoke of his assignment with pride, oblivious to the harsh elements and biting winds.

"It's a deterrent for us to be visible," CO Mills said. "We feel good about what we're doing. We're helping to keep the community safe."

A car then passed the checkpoint. Its operator, recognized by Officers, smiled and waved.

Bedford Hills Lt. Brandon Smith, also assigned to watershed duty, said he and his coworkers have been "very enthusiastic" about their assignments.

"I've been a state employee for 20 years. I've done it all and this is one of the better CERT operations we've ever been on," said Lt. Smith.

"I think it's been great," Great Meadow CO Al Nielsen said from his post outside one of the entrances to the Capitol. "I look at it more as a patriotic thing in the wake of 9-11. And it's nice to be providing a valuable service to the public."

The security coverage at the Capitol began somewhat modestly in the immediate wake of the attacks; Officers and troopers were checking the personal identifications of all entering the parking garage and checking on people entering the Capitol. It since has been bumped up a notch to include metal detector screenings that were enacted earlier this year, checkpoints at other locations and roving foot patrols.

Today, people entering the Capitol likely feel as if they're in an airport. The process begins with a CO providing a square white plastic container to visitors to deposit their keys, loose change, cigarette packs and other items that might trigger an alarm. They then pass through the tall, rectangular metal detector under the supervision of Officers and state troopers. If the alarm goes off, they check to see if they might have forgotten to get rid of something that could have triggered the alarm. If the alarm still goes off, the visitor is hand-scanned by a Correction Officer. If that doesn't solve the problem, he or she is then pat frisked by a state trooper.

Handbags and briefcases are also inspected by security staff for any possible weapons.

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Eastern COs Gil Davis (above left) and David Sanchez check motorist's ID along watershed, while Great Meadow CO Al Nielsen stands his Capitol post in photo below.





Checking IDs of those leaving the South Mall complex to enter the Capitol are (from left) Trooper Vesper Akers, Training Academy CO Gary Waldron and Cossackie Sgt. Todd MacFarlane and CO Elvis Rios.

“It’s been working very well but it really keeps us busy. There’s not a whole lot of spare time,” said CO Daniel Hall, who works out of the Training Academy in Albany and was working at the concourse-to-Capitol metal detector checkpoint. “You’ve always got to be sharp and alert and we’ve done that.”

The identification checkpoints – particularly those at the entrances to the underground parking garage, where motorists have to show their driver’s license or state ID card to security staff– have at times created some minor delays and ruffled a few feathers. But for the most part, employees and visitors have welcomed the enhanced security measures and feel much safer as a result of the ongoing, combined efforts of Department CERT staff and state troopers.

“There’s only been a few people who’ve made comments and have complained,” said CO Hall. “For the

most part, people like the security we’re providing and they’re very appreciative of the job that we’ve done.”

Almost all the Department CERT members assigned to the security details at the Capitol and the watershed have been on the job since October 2001. At the Capitol, as of late February, there were



Oneida CO Milton Benedict logs a vehicle entering the South Mall complex.

CERT members from Auburn, Clinton, Cossackie, Elmira, Great Meadow, Mid-State, Oneida, the Training Academy and Upstate while CERT members from Bedford Hills, Downstate, Fishkill, Green Haven, Sing Sing and Wallkill were assigned to watershed duties.

“I feel really good about what we’re doing here with the state police,” said Cossackie Sgt. Todd MacFarlane, who’s assigned to the Capitol and is one of the on-site supervisors for the Department. “We’ve really been working well together with the troopers. We’ve become a real team over the months and that’s a big plus for everybody because you work better when you work together. I think all our positive CERT training has a lot to do with that.”



Training Academy CO Michael Lybolt checks in Capitol visitors.

The feeling of teamwork is mutual.

“I think it’s been going very well,” said Capt. Patricia Groeber, who oversees the Division of State Police Capitol bureau. “Every checkpoint includes a combination of troopers and Correction Officers and they’ve worked very well together. It’s really amazing how close everyone has become.”

The state police Capitol security contingent includes troopers from the Capitol bureau as well as an impressive additional complement of troopers from barracks throughout the state.

January 8 proved to be a particularly challenging one for the Capitol security details. That was the day Gov. Pataki delivered his annual State of the State Address to a joint session of the Legislature.

“We checked more than 2,000 people,” said Capt. Groeber. “That was a real test day for us, and we passed.”

Since the start of the year, Trooper Vesper Akers has been working side-by-side with coworkers and DOCS employees checking state IDs before letting people into the Capitol.



Woodbourne COs James Nicoletti and Roger Bowker staff their post along a roadway in the Catskills that leads to a reservoir that is part of New York City’s watershed system.

“It’s been a very good working relationship,” said Ms. Akers. “The COs have acted very professionally.”

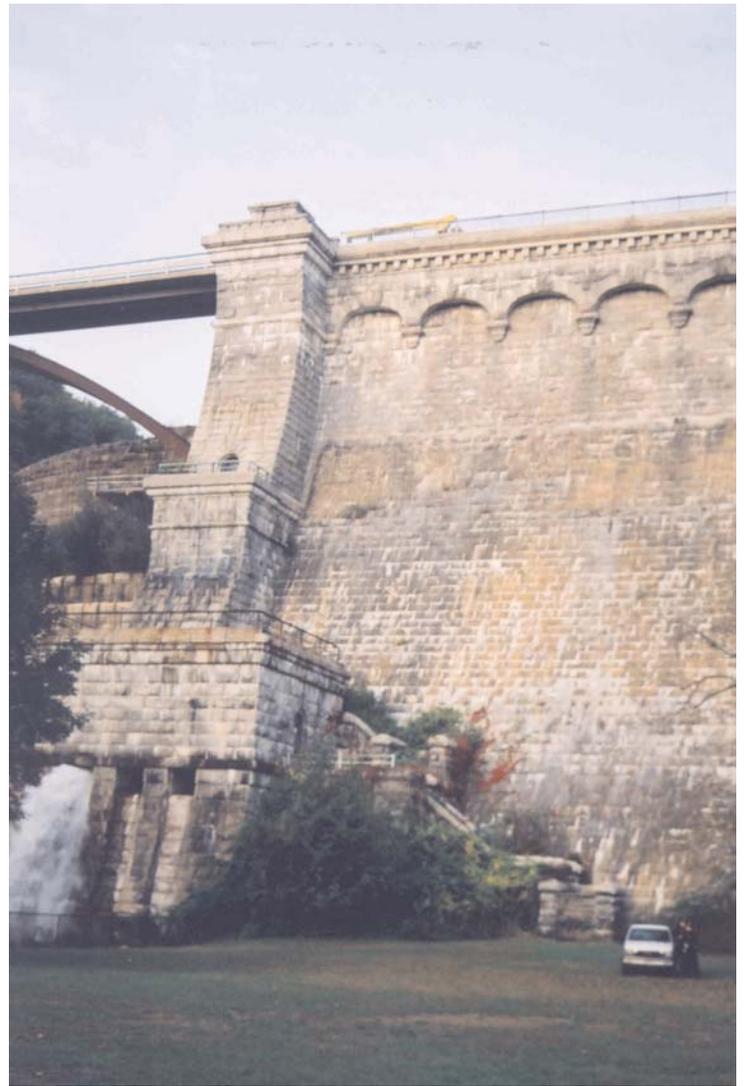
Oneida CO Milton Benedict mans the checkpoint post at one of the delivery areas on a P-1 level of the parking garage.

“I feel pretty good about what we’ve been able to accomplish here,” said CO Benedict. “It’s definitely different than the jobs that we normally do. Here we’re dealing with the public and that’s a real nice change of pace.”

A short distance from CO Benedict’s post is the New York State Department of Health Wadsworth Center.

Stationed behind a desk inside the building a stone’s throw from the receiving and mail entrance is Mid-State CO Michael Schreck, dutifully checking the identification badges of all persons entering the building. *(See story on his efforts beginning on page 8.)*

“I think this has been a very positive thing for us, working in the public eye,” said CO Schreck. “It’s worked out very well and the relationship between our Officers and the state troopers has just been great.” 📖



Dwarfed by this aqueduct (above) along New York City’s watershed, Fishkill Officers are barely visible at lower right. Below, two Eastern Officers are joined in monitoring a reservoir by an officer from New York City’s Department of Environmental Police. The DEP will take on a greater role providing security as DOCS phases out of this special assignment.





Trooper Stephen Russom with his State Police cruiser.

Continued from page 8

"I'm just glad I was there and was able to help somebody who needed help," said CO Schreck. "The whole thing turned out all right in the end but it could have turned out much differently."

Indeed.

A little after 7 p.m. that late December day, Trooper Russom was on his regular security patrol detail at the state Capitol. That Saturday night was proceeding uneventfully, with hardly any traffic in the usually bustling concourse that Trooper Russom was dutifully patrolling.

Trooper Russom then came upon a disheveled individual, a known homeless man who frequents the Empire State Plaza area. Trooper Russom said he found him trespassing in a stairwell near the P-3 North parking area.

"I told the individual to leave the area and he complied," Trooper Russom said.

Approximately five minutes later, the individual approached Trooper Russom on the concourse level of the Empire State Plaza, near The Egg. The individual struck up a conversation, according to Trooper Russom, civilly, in a normal and relaxed tone of voice.

"He said 'I wanted to ask you something,'" Trooper Russom recalled. "And then he said, 'I just lost my whole family.'"

"Suddenly, he just lunged right at me," said Trooper Russom, who wrote in his report of the incident that the individual put his hands around his neck and then repeatedly punched the trooper in his head and face. "It came as a complete surprise. Everything had been so normal."

Trooper Russom tried to subdue the man, who continued his violent assault as he began to back away. Trooper Russom drew his state-issued Glock. The man grabbed the side of the gun,

with Trooper Russom maintaining a firm hold on the handle. The man was struck in the mouth with the gun and he bled on Trooper Russom. One round was discharged into a nearby doorway, causing no injuries. Trooper Russom struck the man on the head with the butt of the gun and his continued maneuvers enabled him to put some distance between himself and the man. The trooper drew his can of pepper spray and administered numerous applications on the man until the canister was empty. The spray had minimal effect, and the man continued his vicious assault.

CO comes to trooper's aid

After a few minutes, the man turned and ran east into the Pepsi Arena walkway, Trooper Russom pursuing him.

After hearing Trooper's Russom's distress call on his own portable radio, CO Schreck, who had just begun his 7 p.m.-7 a.m. shift and was roving the parking lot areas near the south end of the plaza, bolted to the reported scene of the altercation.

"I handled it no differently than as if I were responding to a red dot," recalled CO Schreck.

CO Schreck arrived at The Egg quickly. He met up there with Trooper John Gaba, who asked the Officer, "Where is he? Where is he?"

The two saw some blood on the floor, and then learned that Trooper Russom was now pursuing his assailant on Eagle Street. The two then ran in that direction, passing through a cloud of chemical agents in the process and noticing more blood in the stairwell leading down to the street.

"We didn't realize what had happened prior to our arriving on the scene, that a shot had been fired," CO Schreck said.

Trooper Russom chased his assailant for about 1,100 feet before catching and tackling him on the north side of the Pepsi Arena. The individual again punched at Trooper Russom and continued to violently resist arrest.

CO Schreck and Trooper Gaba then arrived on the scene and assisted Trooper Russom in subduing his attacker.

“It’s always nice when the Cavalry arrives,” said Trooper Russom.

The two troopers grabbed the flailing assailant’s left arm. CO Schreck activated a pressure point and held the assailant’s right arm while the Troopers applied handcuffs. The attacker continued to struggle violently and it wasn’t until the other troopers arrived on the scene that he was finally subdued.

“He put up a real fight,” CO Schreck said.

Slowly, the facts started coming out, and CO Schreck took it all in as he listened intently to Trooper Russom. The trooper had blood all over him. His hat was missing as was his tie, and his shirt was torn and tattered.

“It definitely was a little more involved than a red dot because there was a gun involved,” said CO Schreck.

At the behest of a Division of State Police Sergeant, CO Schreck and Trooper Kenneth Parow stayed and secured the crime scene for about an hour until investigators arrived. CO Schreck and the four troopers all were treated for blood exposure.

During the fracas, Trooper Russom suffered a fracture to his right elbow. Although he’ll likely be out of work for several months, Trooper Russom said, “I think my demise is greatly exaggerated.”

Trooper Gaba also injured his right shoulder helping to subdue the assailant.

As for those fellow law enforcement officials who came to his aid, Trooper Russom said:

“Their assistance was very much appreciated and highly professional. They did a very good job.”

CO Schreck said anyone assigned to the Department’s Capitol security detail would have responded in the same quick and professional manner.

“We’ve got a real good group of people down here,” said CO Schreck, a 17-year Department veteran who’s been assigned to the Capitol security detail since October 2001.

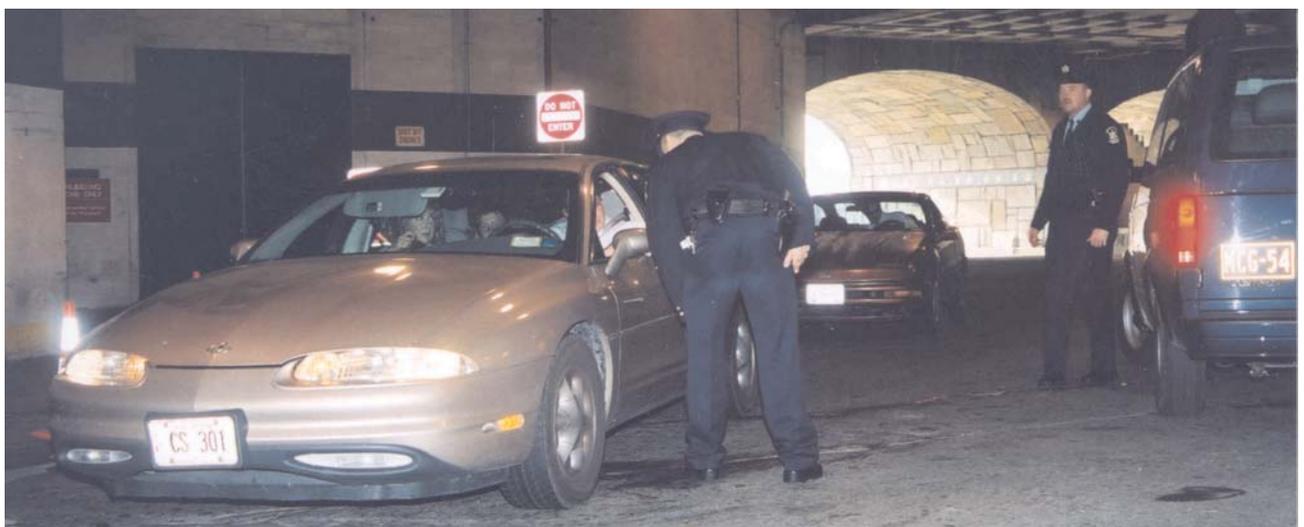
Trooper Russom said he really didn’t realize the seriousness of the situation until the struggle ensued over the Glock.

“I still had control of it but when he went for the gun I realized how very serious a situation it had become,” he said. “It was just shock and surprise. One minute we’re talking and ...

“It certainly wasn’t your typical Saturday night at the Empire Plaza.” 📖



The post above has been staffed routinely on the Capitol’s executive parking ramp, while Officers also inspect vehicles entering subterranean parking garages beneath the adjoining South Mall.





New concept in disciplinary housing

Upstate

In March of 1998, construction began on one of the most technologically advanced prisons in New York state. Appropriately called Upstate – this massive maximum-security prison in the town of Malone is a mere 10-minute drive from the Canadian border – the facility is unique among the system’s 70 prisons. Upstate has the capacity to house 1,500 inmates, 1,200 of whom are in disciplinary lockdown for 24 hours a day with the exception of one hour of court-mandated exercise, in 750 double-occupancy cells.

Designed to segregate from the general population those inmates who chose to assault staff and others and disobey prison rules, the construction of Upstate and an additional 900 double-occupancy maximum-security cells in the late 1990’s has led to a much-safer prison system. Inmates know that the Department now has disciplinary space to house them if needed, and that realization has helped fuel steep declines in inmate-on-staff and inmate-on-inmate assaults. In short, Upstate is doing exactly what officials had hoped it would do.

Providing long-needed maximum-security space

With the Department facing a shortage of maximum-security space in the mid-1990’s the state Legislature in July of 1997 approved Governor Pataki’s 1997-98 Executive Budget proposal to add 1,550 such cells to the system. It was the largest

cell expansion authorized since the construction of Attica was approved in 1929 and included plans for construction of the state’s first maximum-security facility since Southport opened in 1988. Southport itself was constructed as a disciplinary housing unit with limited support service.

Besides authorizing construction of a 750-cell, double-occupancy maximum-security facility that would eventually become Upstate, the budget authorized construction of eight 100-cell, double-occupancy maximum-security disciplinary units on the grounds of eight medium-security facilities. Known as S-blocks, these units have also been instrumental in ensuring a safer system for staff and others.

The numbers are telling indeed. Department-wide, there was

a 38 percent decline in inmate-on-staff assaults between 1993 (997) and 2002 (621) during a period in which the inmate population increased by 4 percent, from 64,569 to 66,928 at the end of last year. There was also a 44 percent decline in the number of inmate-on-inmate assaults since 1993, 1,322 down to 735, often the result of staff intervening to prevent or break up such incidents. Additionally, there was a 39 percent decline in contraband, from 2,863 incidents to 1,755, meaning staff is doing an even better job of confiscating contraband and preventing its introduction into facilities.

Upstate filled more than just the Department's needs – it provided a welcomed economic boost to the North Country.

Malone became the final selection for the new prison after officials discounted their initial site in Tupper Lake because of environmental and legal problems that, according to the Department of Environmental Conservation, would have prevented construction there. A total of 535 full-time employees and an annual payroll of \$21.3 million was authorized for Upstate with 366 of those positions designated as security posts. Upstate's 23 buildings occupy 600,000 square feet and cover 70 acres.

Commissioner Goord chose to call the new prison Upstate from among the names suggested by community residents, which also included Border, Flat Rock and North Country. He decided upon Upstate in recognition of the consistency of giving facilities regional names, such as Mid-State in Marcy, Eastern in Napanoch, Downstate in Fishkill and Mid-Orange in Warwick.

Upstate continues a trend of prison construction in the North Country that has helped boost the economy by providing thousands of good-paying jobs to area residents. Besides Upstate, the North Country – which encompasses Clinton, Franklin and Essex counties – is home to nine other prisons: Adirondack, Altona, Bare Hill, Camp Gabriels, Chateaugay, Clinton, Franklin, Lyon Mountain and Moriah Shock. The first of those, Clinton, opened in 1845.

More than 3,800 Adirondack region residents are employed at the 10 prisons in a host of capacities, including serving as doctors, secretaries, counselors, physical plant operators, academic teachers, nurses, vocational instructors, cooks, truck drivers, hearing officers, chaplains, electricians and plumbers – as well as security personnel.

The layout at Upstate is quite different than that at other prisons. Those inmates housed in disciplinary status in Upstate's double cells rarely encounter a prison hallway, unless they're going for an approved visit or medical call. That's because located at the rear of each cell is an enclosed exercise area where the inmates go for their one hour of court-mandated daily exercise; the same is the case at the S-blocks. This means employees do not have to run the risk of being assaulted while escorting an inmate to a communal-type outdoor exercise yard and also frees them up to perform other vital security duties.



Upstate cells have two ledges for bunks and, behind them, a door leading to an outside exercise area. On the left side of the cell is a writing table, storage space and a shower booth. Both the yard door and shower water are controlled by staff from outside the cell, limiting contact and the opportunity for inmates to assault staff.

Each of the cells at Upstate – identical to those at the new 100-cell, double-occupancy S-blocks – consists of 105 square feet, making them the largest in the system. Each of the 600 Upstate cells designated for inmates to be housed around-the-clock also are equipped with a shower and toilet, further reducing the need for a security escort.

The cadre inmates stay in identical cells. If they're not assigned to a particular program during the day, they can access their enclosed recreation areas at the rear of their cells. Evenings, if there's enough inmate interest, the cadre inmates can recreate in the yard or in the gymnasium.

Upstate received its first transfers, a contingent of cadre inmates to ready the facility for further occupancy, on July 6, 1999. The inmates came from Bare Hill, Downstate and Sing Sing. Upstate reached its maximum capacity of 1,500 inmates on August 23 of that year.

As a result of Commissioner Goord's decision to "right-size" the prison system, 160 of the disciplinary cells at Upstate were reclassified as single cells in December 2001. All inmates that are sent to Upstate are designated for placement in either single or double cells by Classification and Movement.

Access to services despite restrictions

Despite their disciplinary housing status, inmates at Upstate, like those at other disciplinary housing units, have daily access to limited services and programs aimed at trying to ensure that they behave in the general population once they're transferred from the facility.

And all Upstate inmates in disciplinary status are provided with an incentive not to act up and follow the rules.

Upstate utilizes the Progressive Inmate Movement System (PIMS) as well as the Department's Tier 3 Disciplinary system to address inmate violations of Department and facility rules and regulations. PIMS is a tri-level system through which an in-

mate may progress based on demonstrated appropriate behavior. If an inmate follows the rules and doesn't cause any problems for staff and others, the system can extend him some special privileges such as increased access to commissary purchases, headphones, additional clothing allowances or additional shower and exercise periods. It's proven to be a valuable reward system and has led to a safer facility as inmates know they can get more by just doing less in terms of unacceptable conduct.

By reaching certain acceptable performance levels and classification status under PIMS, Upstate inmates are also given the opportunity to participate in cell study programs and a pilot substance abuse cell study program.

Upstate inmates in disciplinary status also have an opportunity to have books and periodicals from the law library brought to their cells, as well as publications from the general library. They are also provided regular access to ministerial services at their request and can meet with counselors and health care professionals. Those with appropriate behavior histories can also meet with their families on a limited basis. They are also not sitting alone in their cells 24 hours a day as they have a cell mate with whom they can communicate and play board games.

More benefits for those not in disciplinary status

The 300 cadre inmates at Upstate are given the chance to access even more programs and services based on the fact that they are not in disciplinary housing status, although they are not as extensive as what's offered at other prisons throughout the state.

The cadre inmates are allowed movement out of their cells, primarily to go to their work assignments. They are an integral part of the daily operations at Upstate. They work in the laundry, storehouse, state shop, libraries, food services area and other places. They also work as library clerks and porters and are responsible for preparing and transporting food to inmates in the disciplinary units, maintaining the grounds and transporting library and others materials to inmates.

The cadre inmates also have access to a large gymnasium, an outdoor recreation yard and a recreation room with a fully equipped weight room.

Cadre inmates can also participate in a cell study program from Adult Basic Education (ABE) through the GED level. GED testing was established in 2001, which resulted in 10 successful graduates.



CO James Crop reviews grievances.

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (ASAT) programming is also made available to cadre inmates. Other programs include guidance and ministerial services. Cadre inmates are also provided areas and times for ample worship of all denominations.

"It's clear to see our policy when you take a look at the operations of Upstate," said Commissioner Goord. "If an inmate chooses to assault staff and others and break other rules, they are going to be segregated from the general population and placed in disciplinary housing status. There, they will lose most if not all of the programs, benefits and services to which other inmates are entitled. Meanwhile, if an inmate behaves, as is the case with Upstate's cadre inmates,

they can access all available programs, benefits and services. It's clearly the inmate's choice."

Meeting the challenges of a varied population

Upstate was accredited in 2000 by the American Correctional Association (ACA), affirming that it meets nationally-acceptable standards in its management and operations. It is preparing for its triennial reaccreditation this year.

All 70 state prisons have been accredited by the ACA but Upstate became the first to achieve the unique distinction in less than a year.

Upstate has an extensive medical department. The intent of the unit is to provide all inmates with optimum medical care within the confines of the unit while meeting the Department's legal responsibility to provide inmates with medical care that is consistent with that provided in the community.

Being able to provide as many in-house medical services as possible allows for inmate movement and/or transportation to be kept to an absolute minimum. Among the services provided

by Upstate's medical department are an infirmary, dental, radiology services, telemedicine, EKG, phlebotomy and mental health.

Upstate also hosts the largest portion of clinics in the Clinton hub. Seventeen clinics are held each month at Upstate with specialists from the fields of infectious diseases, general surgery, urology, audiology, dermatology, podiatry and other disciplines.

Upstate also has a fully equipped legal library staffed with law library Correction Officers and inmate clerks. Inmates have access to the re-



Cadre inmates fill library requests from other inmates.

sources right at the library or they may make a request in writing if they are in disciplinary housing status. Legal materials are delivered to those who are not in cadre on a daily basis.

Upstate is also currently operating one of the largest and most extensive general library programs in the Department, processing more than 100,000 book requests a year. It is affiliated with the Clinton/Essex/Franklin Public Library system and through this connection inmates are afforded interlibrary loans of books and periodicals. Cadre inmates assist in filling orders and checking the books in and out.

The Inmate Records Office at Upstate coordinates a tremendous amount of activity both in incoming and outgoing transfers. Due to the type of inmate housed at Upstate, scheduling court trips for inmates and coordination of employees for court appearances also encompasses many man hours. In order to obtain some efficiencies in this area, a Legal Office was created in January 2002 to streamline the operation.

To date there have been over 30 inmate convictions for charges such as manslaughter, assault, aggravated harassment of a correctional employee, conspiracy and promoting prison contraband. Working in cooperation with Upstate and others, the Franklin County District Attorney's Office has successfully convicted both visitors and inmates for promoting prison contraband. They have been recognized by the Department as being in the forefront for this kind of prosecution.

The curious meet new neighbor

On June 27, 1999, 4,000 curious North Country residents showed up at a Department-sponsored facility open house to meet and speak with their new neighbors.

The tour was conducted several weeks before the first round of cadre inmates arrived, and the turnout was impressive.

Residents participated in an extensive staff-guided, 90-minute tour inside the newest of the state's maximum-security facilities.



Guidance staff meet regularly to discuss services for Upstate inmates.

There were between 20 and 25 residents assigned to each escorted tour group. They were encouraged to ask questions of staff, and ask they did.

With his 11-month-old daughter in his arms and two young sons in tow, Russell Trim was among those who toured the facility.

"We just thought we'd bring the kids to show them," Mr. Trim said.

"What the consequences can be," added his wife, Chantelle.

Among the areas toured by visitors were the visiting area, medical units, housing units, inmate services building and activity building. Once the visitors finished touring inside the secure perimeter, they were bussed around the exterior fence to get a handle on the size of the huge prison.

The community seemed duly impressed with its new neighbors. Upstate employees, in turn, have made their impression on the community.

Since they began their new jobs at Upstate four years ago, staff have been a vital and productive part of the local fabric. As with employees at other facilities throughout the state, Upstate employees are key figures throughout the community. They work as sports coaches and volunteer firefighters, serve on school, town and other local community boards and donate their time for the needy in the community.

Each year, staff and inmates participate in *Make a Difference Day* activities, sponsoring holiday meals to benefit needy North Country residents. Last year, Upstate, Bare Hill and Franklin employees teamed up to assist the Centenary United Methodist Church prepare its annual Thanksgiving Day dinner for the area's needy. Dinner was served to more than 100 guests at the church and meals were delivered to about 250 homebound people. Franklin staff cooked 22 turkeys and prepared the bread stuffing, Bare Hill staff peeled and cooked 250 pounds of potatoes and prepared 12 gallons of turkey gravy and Upstate staff cooked about 65 squash.

And while they may be idle, Upstate inmates in 2001 received national recognition when they donated \$10,000 to the World Trade Center Relief Fund. 📖



CO Terry Ashlaw inspects inmate property in draft processing area.

Stringers

Listed below are the individuals designated as "stringers" — employees who have volunteered to be your contact with DOCS/TODAY.

Adirondack

William S. Burke
Program Dep

Albion

Michael Morse
Program Dep

Altona

Lawrence Stearns
Program Dep

Arthur Kill

Valerie Sullivan
Program Dep

Attica

Ronald Pikula
Lieutenant

Auburn

Debbie Clinch
Industries

Bare Hill

Lynne Kelley
Senior M&S Clerk

Bayview

Tracy O'Bryan
Steward

Beacon

David Michael
Lieutenant

Bedford Hills

Joe Greenfield
Correction Counselor

Buffalo

Sandy Janes
Head Account Clerk

Butler

Brian O'Hora
ASAT PA

Cape Vincent

Donna Pirie
Administration Dep

Cayuga

Mary Regan
Volunteer Services

Central Office

Mike Houston
Public Relations

Chateaugay

William Spellman
Asst. Program Dep.

Facility Highlights

DOCS contributes to Special Olympians

Help make games a success for staff as well as competitors

Caring and concerned employees from prisons throughout the Wende hub plan to once again go beyond the call of duty this year to assist Special Olympians.

Various fund-raising efforts will be conducted throughout the year by DOCS employees and other law enforcement officials in western New York, mirroring successful efforts in recent years. The focus remains on ensuring a successful New York State Special Olympics Summer Games, which this year will be held at Hofstra University in Hempstead on Long Island.

Last year was a particularly gratifying one for Special Olympics officials thanks to the year-long efforts of the Wende hub employees and others as they received many thousands of dollars in donations. In turn, the organization used those generous and continued donations to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with mental retardation.

"I love all of your people," said Jeanne Mesick, Torch Run liaison for Special Olympics New York. "It's amazing what lengths the folks at Wende and throughout the Department of Correctional Services will go to benefit our athletes. All of the hubs just are becoming so involved and our athletes are just in awe as to what the Department has done. We look

forward to a very long and happy relationship."

For those Wende hub employees and others who were involved in Special Olympics events last year and in previous years, and those who will continue to be involved this year, it's become a true labor of love.

"It's a mutually beneficial arrangement. Our employees really

feel proud of their ongoing spirit of giving and knowing that they are indeed helping to make a difference in the lives of our less-fortunate neighbors," said Attica Sgt. Kevin Arnone, one of the driving forces behind the annual push to help.

"Special Olympics long has been a champion in helping those with special needs and our employees in western New York are to be congratulated for doing everything they can to help that worthy organization fulfill its laudable mission," said Commissioner Goord.

"Employees from throughout DOCS have always gone above and beyond when it comes to addressing a variety of needs in communities throughout all of New York state," continued Commissioner Goord. "The tireless and dedicated efforts last year of those concerned employees who work in the Wende hub is testament to that compassion and continued desire to help others."

The efforts of the employees were multi-pronged. For instance, staff late last year conducted various fund-raisers on behalf of Special Olympics and solicited contributions from their coworkers at Attica, Albion, Collins, Gowanda, Groveland, Lakeview, Wende and Wyoming.



Attica Sgt. Kevin Arnone awarded hundreds of medals to Special Olympics participants last year in Buffalo, but none more proudly than this one — to his son, Adam, who participated in the track and field event.



DOCS employees from the Wende hub carry the Special Olympics torch to the Buffalo games.

The result was a \$10,000 check for Special Olympics, with the presentation being made by Sgt. Arnone and Victor Herbert, retired Wende hub Supervising Superintendent and Attica Superintendent.

One would have thought that effort last year would have been more than enough for the year.

Not for the hundreds of helpful Wende hub employees.

Working in conjunction with other law enforcement officials in western New York, Sgt. Arnone teamed with Chief Michael Benson of the Erie County Sheriff's Department to coordinate the first Western New York Fire Truck Pull for Special Olympics. The well-attended event was held at the Twin District Volunteer Fire Department in Lancaster.

A fascinating sight indeed, a fire truck pull consists of a 10-person team whose members pull a 45,000-pound fire truck. The goal is to use muscle to be the fastest to haul the massive rig 20 feet using a two-inch-wide-by-100-foot-long rope.

Correction teams – consisting of Correction Officers and Superintendents, plus various ranks in between – competed from Attica, Collins, Lakeview, Wende and Wyoming, as did members of the Division of State Police as well as regional police and fire departments. Employees from a few corporations in western New York took a stab at the challenge as well.

Teams were asked to raise a \$500 entry fee and, besides thrilling the crowd, Special Olympics was another \$10,000 in the black.

Besides including the entry fees, the final tally included receipts from donated food items and beverages that were sold to members of the public at the grueling but spirited competition. Also on hand at the event were disc jockeys plus bounce houses for the kids.

NYSCOPBA sponsored the truck pull and provided commemorative tee shirts as well as volunteers and trophies.

In front of about 500 spectators, the Buffalo Fire Department walked away with the first-place trophy, accomplishing the task in 7.27 seconds. Attica finished second with a respectable time of 7.47 seconds.

Two vans of security staff from western New York last year also joined more than 150 law enforcement officers from 20 states and Canada to light the Flame of Hope and participate in the first leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

They met at Battery Park on the south side of Manhattan on a cold and rainy day to pay tribute to those law enforcement officers, emergency personnel, firefighters, civilians and surviving family members who were victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Please turn to next page

- Clinton**
Kathy Leary
Secretary
- Collins**
Stacey Nagel
Counselor
- Coxsackie**
Wendy Bopp
Teacher
- Downstate**
William Carmichael
Correction Counselor
- Eastern**
Robert Posner
Correction Counselor
- Edgecombe**
Loretta Mealy
Corr. Counselor
- Elmira**
Sheryl Graubard
Inmate Griev. Supr.
- Fishkill**
Marcia Tavano
Administrative Aide
- Five Points**
Denise Butler
Academic Supervisor
- Franklin**
Larry Sears
Administration Dep
- Fulton**
William Sanchez
Correction Officer
- Gabriels**
Debbie LaGree
Secretary II
- Georgetown**
Renee Buddie
Correction Counselor
- Gouverneur**
Carl Hunt
Program Dep
- Gowanda**
Jim Galati
Volunteer Services
- Great Meadow**
Susan Hart
Secretary
- Greene**
Peter Chmura
Education Supervisor
- Green Haven**
Tom Levanduski
Senior Counselor
- Groveland**
Robert Blair
Recreation Leader

Hale Creek
Theresa Young
Calculations Clerk 2

Hudson
Peter Tenerowicz
Correction Officer

Lakeview
Michael Mosher
Program Dep

Lincoln
Joan Taylor
Senior Counselor

Livingston
Donna Pitt-Hickman
Correction Counselor

Lyon Mountain
Angie Petrashune
Counselor Aide

Marcy
Robert Cunningham
Asst Program Dep

Mid-Orange
Dolores Barnes
Secretary

Mid-State
Linda Bloser
Keyboard Specialist

Mohawk
James Mance
Program Dep

Monterey
Carolyn Colunio
Secretary II

Moriah
Steven Gagnon
Correction Officer

Mt. McGregor
Gwen Duncan
Grievance Supervisor

Ogdensburg
John Crowley
Program Dep

Oneida
Anthony Labriola
Correction Captain

Orleans
Jose Reyes
Correction Counselor

Otisville
Chris Andre
Recreation Leader

Pharsalia
Cheryl Daughtrey
Administrative Aide

Queensboro
Carmen Johnson
Program Dep

In an emotional tribute, one by one, the participating officers had their state's torch ignited by a welder's torch. The same welder and the same torch had helped burn through the World Trade Center wreckage.



Judge fires starter pistol to begin Lakeview's fire truck pull.

The brotherhood of runners, which included New York City police officers and firefighters, paused for a moment of silence at the World Trade Center site before embarking on their three-mile run which concluded at the South Street Seaport.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run began in 1981 when Wichita, Ks., Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw a need to raise money for Special Olympics. It's become a growing fixture throughout the entire country since those humble beginnings.

Department employees from western New York and other parts of the state also continued their annual tradition last year by participating in New York's Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run which has been held for the last 17 years.

More than 4,000 Department staff, state troopers, sheriff's deputies and local police officers made their way through 40 New York counties during the 1,900-mile run from New York City to SUNY Buffalo and the start of the opening ceremonies at the Special Olympics Summer Games.

Nearing the conclusion of the long run, more than 90 runners from DOCS and other law enforcement agencies carried the Flame of Hope into downtown Buffalo in impressive three-column formation while calling cadence. A

brief noontime ceremony was then held to thank the local sponsors and promote the opening of the Summer Games.

Later that evening at SUNY Buffalo, Color Guard units from Albion, Attica, Groveland, Gowanda, Lakeview and

Wende joined 30 other law enforcement Color Guard units in escorting the 37 regions of athletes before the enthusiastic spectators in the crowded stadium. During this parade of athletes, smiles and waves filled the stadium as thousands of family members, friends, volunteers and dignitaries showed up to support and cheer their very special Olympians.

As night fell, nearly 100 law enforcement vehicles from across New York state made their way into the stadium, their lights flashing and sirens screaming. After circling the interior of the stadium, countless Officers from DOCS and other law enforcement agencies, in column formation, proudly entered the stadium in a ceremonious run to the unlighted cauldron.

As they formed a very lengthy corridor of officers, all the lights in the stadium were extinguished. Overhead, the Erie County Sheriff's Department helicopter, with its spotlight focused downward, lighted the way, guiding six selected officers and two Olympians into the stadium to light the cauldron and officially open the long-anticipated Summer Games.

"The run into the stadium was an absolutely overwhelming experience," said Collins Deputy Superintendent for Security Sibatu Khahaifa, a longtime participant of the annual Torch Run and a Special Olympics volunteer. "The sincere gratitude of the Olympians could be seen with every step."

Approximately 200 employees from the Wende hub took part in last year's games. 



Gowanda's color guard opens the games.

Employees' SEFA donation tops \$1M

DOCS employees once again reached a record-setting level of giving when it came to the annual SEFA (State Employees Federated Appeal) campaign.

Employees from facilities throughout the state reached deep into their pockets last year to help their needy neighbors and wound up donating \$1,034,394.95 to the SEFA campaign. That topped the Department's previous record, set in 2001, by just over \$3,000. The 2001 campaign marked the first time that Department employees donated more than \$1 million and, encouraged by last year's results, officials are hoping it's a trend that continues and can even be topped during the 2003 SEFA drive later this year.

"Our employees have once again shown that they are generous when it comes to helping the less fortunate and those in need," said Commissioner Goord. "We have always been a key player in the annual SEFA campaign and our employees rose to the occasion again last year. Their efforts were commendable and will help many and we look forward to an even more successful SEFA drive later this fall."

Last year, the statewide SEFA campaign collected an estimated \$9.4, a new high, million from state employees; that reflected a 2 percent increase when compared with the amount raised in 2001.

The contributions last year from DOCS employees represented 11 percent of the total statewide donations as the Department once again proved itself to be one of the lead state agencies in terms of donations.

"The 2002 SEFA donations from DOCS employees and workers in other state agencies were very impressive and much appreciated," said Governor Pataki. "Even in these difficult economic times, state employees found it in their hearts to help out their needy neighbors. We look forward to more successes in the 2003 SEFA campaign."

Most facilities were able to once again meet and exceed their SEFA campaign goals in 2002.

In 2001, the statewide SEFA campaign raised a then-record \$9,188,931 from state employees; DOCS employees contributed \$1,031,401, or 11.2 percent of the statewide total.

Although SEFA failed to meet its 2002 goal of \$10 million in contributions, officials were not discouraged, considering the record donations.

The theme of last year's SEFA campaign was "SEFA: It's all About Family."

Last year's SEFA theme once again embodied the spirit of the annual campaign. Because SEFA is a federated campaign, a large number of health, human services, environmental and advocacy federations and agencies participate, in addition to the United Way. The campaign reflects the importance of individual contributions, and provides all employees of DOCS and other state agencies with a unique opportunity to help those in need in their communities.

Besides being responsive to those in need, SEFA offers contributors flexibility. Employees can designate that their pledge

"Our employees have once again shown that they are generous when it comes to helping the less fortunate and those in need," said Commissioner Goord.

go directly to a variety of participating agencies and charities in the local campaign. Or, if they prefer, contributors can

designate that their gift go directly to a specifically designated local participating charity or to any other area of the state.

Due to its documented high level of participation in previous campaigns, DOCS last year was once again selected to be one of five organizations "targeted" by the statewide SEFA committee to increase employee participation during the 2002 campaign, which it ultimately did. DOCS was chosen because its facilities are located across many local campaigns and because the Department has a large employee base. Additionally, DOCS is usually near the top of the list when it comes to total agency donations. 

Riverview
Rebecca Fiacco
Administrative Dep

Rochester
Benjamin Taylor
Assistant Director

Shawangunk
John Tumminia
Recreation Leader

Sing Sing
James Farrell
Asst. Prgrm. Dep.

Southport
Paul Sweeney
Teacher

Sullivan
Leonard Findling
Correction Counselor

Summit
Kathleen Johnson
Clerk II

Taconic
Patricia Ennis
Vocational Instructor

Training Academy
Charles Koemmer
Sergeant

Ulster
Robert Krom
Psychometrist

Upstate
Kathy DeCelle
Secretary II

Wallkill
Michelle Reale
Inmate Grievance

Washington
Duff Hildreth
Volunteer Supervisor

Watertown
Sarah Campbell
Volunteer Services

Wende
Diane Catalfu
Senior Counselor

Willard
Helen Bunting
Librarian

Woodbourne
Elias Carrillo
Program Dep

Wyoming
Barbara Myer
Counselor

Employees can contact your "stringer" with ideas for stories and photos for DOCS/TODAY.

Panel reviews products to ensure DOCS cost benefits

Inspection ensures statewide consistency, while assuring standards compliance

State taxpayers have seen substantial savings, and the Department has been able to improve efficiencies in a variety of areas, thanks to the ongoing efforts of members of the Department's Product Evaluation Committee.

Shortly after being named head of the Department in 1979, then-Commissioner Thomas A. Coughlin III toured the state to visit its prisons. He returned somewhat mystified at the lack of uniformity throughout the system. There were huge variations in almost all operational aspects, from security systems to office furnishings, from floor tiling to inmate toothbrushes. Consequently, many desired efficiencies were being ignored at the expense of state taxpayers.

That began to change in the early 1980's. It was at that time that the Department began constructing its medium-security "cookie-cutter" facilities to handle a dramatic spike in the prison population due to the crack cocaine epidemic that was gripping not only New York state but the entire nation.

At Commissioner Coughlin's behest, uniformity replaced haphazardness, there was a corresponding savings for state taxpayers and security was enhanced. And it's a successful and productive legacy that survives to this day thanks to the efforts of the Product Evaluation Committee.

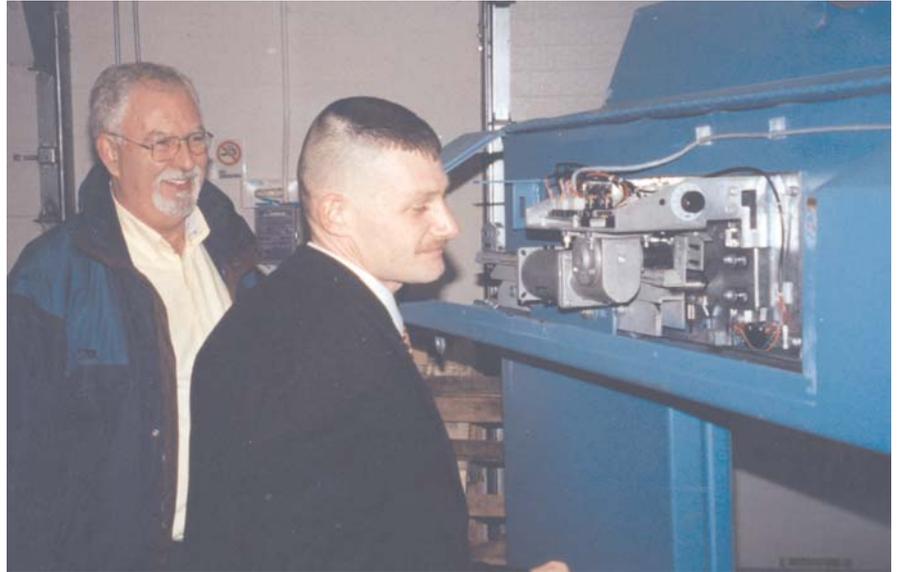
On the first Monday of every month, the eight or 10 members of the committee – the number varies – meet to talk about the Department's changing needs and how to best address them. Chaired by an Assistant Commissioner, committee members come from many disciplines in the Department, such as security, management information services, support services and facilities planning.

Among other things, members review the many new products that are constantly hitting the market to see if they are equal to existing Department products or services or meet new Departmental needs. The goal is to open up the field to attract more qualified bidders and lower prices for products and services without compromising quality.

It's a process that has worked well for a long time. Two years ago, for example, members of the committee determined that a new rapid drug screening test met the Department's existing specifications. Rapid drug screen tests are primarily conducted at work release and smaller facilities and are different than the regular and random drug screening tests that are staples throughout the system.

When bids went out to an expanded field of competitors, the Department wound up paying \$3.20 for each rapid drug screening test, compared to the \$5.20 per test it was previously paying.

That modest \$2-per-dose savings has translated to an annual savings of some \$80,000. And since the process is regularly repeated regarding a variety of other products and services, it's clear to see how the savings throughout the Department can quickly mount up.



Christopher McAleavey (left), a member of the NLECTC as well as of DOCS' Product Evaluation Committee, goes over a new product with its vendor, Jock McGregor, president of RR Brink Locking Systems.

From drug testing kits to new locking systems that help enhance security, members of the committee must be knowledgeable in a host of areas. To help ensure that they know about emerging technology and other products, they work in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies throughout the northeast and engineers and architects from the state Office of General Services (OGS). Committee members also have forged close ties with the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-Northeast Center (NLECTC) in Rome.

Created in 1994 as a component of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Office of Science and Technology, the NLECTC serves the committee as an impartial advisor. It provides support, research findings and technological expertise to help the Department and other law enforcement agencies pursue their missions safely and more efficiently.

The NLECTC is assisted by national and regional councils that advise the criminal justice community on advanced research and development. Commissioner Goord is a member the national advisory council and Assistant Commissioner Clair Bee is a member of both the national and regional councils.

The NLECTC-Northeast Center is co-located with the Air Force Research Lab. It has provided the committee with information on emerging products on a monthly basis since 1997. In turn, the NLECTC passes along the lessons learned from the

Continued on facing page

Transitions

February 2003

Names Title Location

Promotions

Constance Persson Sr Utilization Review Nurse . Fishkill
Donald Sharrow Ministerial Prog Coord Main Office
Sandra L. Downey Payroll Clerk V Main Office
Linda Klopf Supr Comm Disease Control . Main Office
Jacqueline A. Shiel Clerk 2 Mt. McGregor
Eva Bruce Keyboard Specialist 2 Taconic

Retirements

Marie A. Law Nurse Administrator 1 Adirondack

Continued from facing page

Department's evaluations and testing results to numerous federal, state and local agencies.

Members of the committee conduct extensive testing on each and every product to ensure that they adequately address the Department's needs and security concerns. For instance, there have been several one-year testing programs at facilities of varying security levels on new perimeter security fencing. Designated manufacturers typically install about 100 yards of their new fencing product outside a portion of the existing perimeter fencing. For the next year the Department then monitors the effectiveness of the fencing in various climates and looks at other aspects of the security fencing, like the number of false alarms generated. Only then does the Department decide if the fencing meets its needs.

When evaluating products, members of the committee also take into account the uniqueness of each individual facility's physical plants, operations and other factors.

Manufacturers typically agree to loan the Department their products at no cost for a designated testing period. The committee determines testing schedules, locations and procedures.

There's another important benefit to the Department as a result of the efforts of the committee members. They are able to deal on a one-on-one basis with various vendors in their designated area or areas of expertise. That eliminates the middleman and ensures that issues are discussed and resolved in a timely and professional fashion.

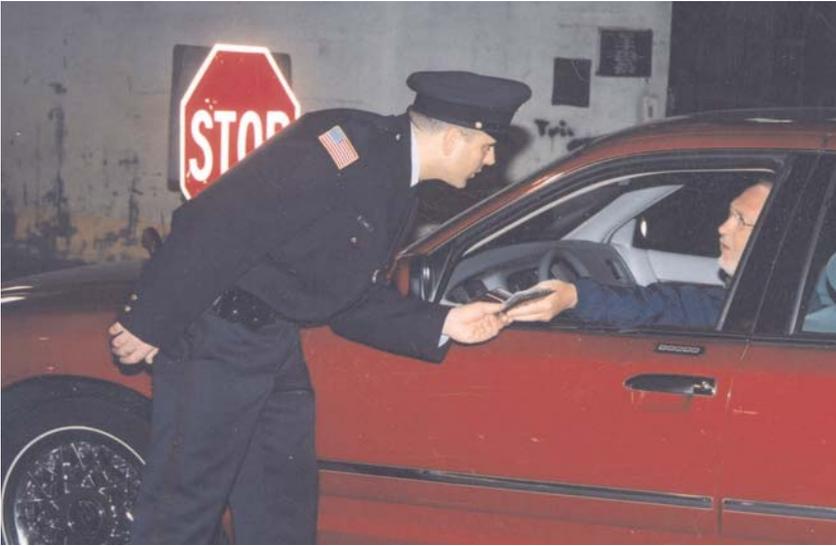
Members of the committee are also frequent guests at law enforcement seminars throughout the northeast where their expertise is tapped by others when it comes to new products and what their testing results have shown.

"Thanks to the continued diligence of members of our Product Evaluation Committee, we have been able to obtain thousands of quality products that are specific to our needs and have helped enhance security for staff and others," said Commissioner Goord. "At the same time, taxpayers throughout New York state are seeing a substantial savings due to uniformity which provides real benefits when certain items are purchased in bulk for use at facilities throughout the state. And it's a benefit that will continue for years to come." 

Roger A. Durfee Plumber & Steamfitter Attica
Ana Maria LeBaudy Counselor (Spanish Speaking) Auburn
Ralph Harden Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Bedford Hills
Rosalie W. Mercer Nurse 2 Bedford Hills
Margaret A. Williams Clerk 2 Cayuga
Barbara J. Welch Payroll Clerk 3 Clinton
Mary Ann Alotta Teacher 4 Coxsackie
Maureen F. Cross Calculations Clerk 2 Downstate
Sheila Smith Clerk 2 Downstate
Suzanne B. Faulisi Calculations Clerk 2 Elmira
Abdul R. Muhammad ASAT Program Assistant Fishkill
Helen F. Robertson Pharmacy Aide Fishkill
Emma Martinez Stores Clerk 2 Fulton
Barbara J. Banach Correction Counselor Gowanda
Bernice Harris Institution Steward Hudson
Gerald Kempf General Mechanic Lakeview
Leslie Hessel Ed Supr (General) Livingston
Terry J. Tamer Guidance Specialist Main Office
Kathleen Gregory Calculations Clerk 1 Main Office
Wilfredo Batista First Dep Supt Mid-State
Beverly A. Wakelee Commissary Clerk 4 Mohawk
Gregory Roof Tractor Trailer Operator Oneida
Gale M. McGuane Superintendent Watertown
Joseph Weber Electrician Wyoming
Jerry P. Maggy Correction Sergeant Clinton
Roy Marcotte Correction Sergeant Downstate
Timothy P. O'Leary Correction Sergeant Great Meadow
Timothy Anastasio Correction Sergeant Hudson
Linda Monaghan Correction Sergeant Mid-Orange
Kenneth J. Yearsley Correction Sergeant Mt. McGregor
Calvin G. Connor Correction Officer Adirondack
Terry J. LaGree Correction Officer Clinton
Juan A. Collazo Correction Officer Eastern
Regina A. Brown Correction Officer Edgecombe
William J. Sayers, Jr. Correction Officer Elmira
Francis Erno Correction Officer Franklin
Jerome Mussaw Correction Officer Franklin
Charles M. McNeil Correction Officer Fulton
Eric A. Voellm Correction Officer Hudson
Lawrence Switzer, Jr. Correction Officer Lakeview
Richard Ralph Correction Officer Mid-Orange
Maurice Lewis Correction Officer Mid-Orange
Gregory B. Pair Correction Officer Queensboro
James Smith Correction Officer Queensboro
William L. Marshall Correction Officer Queensboro
Elmer F. Holbert Correction Officer Wallkill
William J. Hendrickson Correction Officer Woodbourne
Arthur H. Soule Correction Officer Woodbourne

Deaths

Thankfully, there are none to report, for the first time in DOCS|TODAY history.



CERT ending homeland detail

COs are ending their duties at these security assignments, along the New York City watershed in the Catskills and at some government buildings in Albany. See stories beginning on page 8.

