

DOCS TODAY

August 2004

New York State Department of Correctional Services

Vol. 13, No. 8

Green Haven tops Olympics, color guard



Green Haven staff won the Commissioner's Trophy for participation in the DOCS Employee Olympics while its color guard took the gold in the A Division competition. Color guard members (some of whom are shown performing above) are Sgt. Alfred Montegari and COs Richard Hope, Leanne Hosking, Scott Hahn, Marc Speed, Keith Sposato, Kelly Shearing, Dennis McGill and Jeffrey Macisaac.

DOCS improving record in meeting our mission

We contribute to state's crime reduction through secure operations, programs

Our monthly *Spotlight* column at right shows that Governor Pataki's efforts are successful in contributing to driving historic reductions in crime across our state.

Employees of this Department should feel a bit of pride that their efforts are contributing to that decline.

We contribute every time an inmate attains academic excellence, completes a vocational program, undergoes drug abuse treatment, learns work ethics or completes any of the other programs we offer.

At the same time, the medical and mental health services that we provide result in a better quality of life for inmates. It also reduces the services that taxpayers will have to pay for that care in the future.

Most importantly, having the cells available and the disciplinary process in place allows all of this to happen while we safeguard our staff and protect both inmates and the surrounding community.

Just as our *Spotlight* column this month tracks the reduction in crime since the Governor took office in 1995, we have been tracking this Department's record over the same period.

This month's articles

- ***Overall crime rate drops 4%, violent by 6%: Page 3.***
- ***1,400 participate in Employee Olympics: Page 4.***
- ***Corcraft ingenuity produces safer tables: Page 9.***
- ***Puppies Behind Bars enriches recipients: Page 10.***
- ***Inmates face challenge in training puppies: Page 11.***
- ***Mohawk employees run, walk for their own: Page 12.***
- ***Staff promotions, retirements and deaths: Page 13.***
- ***CO exam to be given statewide on Oct. 30: Page 16.***

For example, despite the inmate population decreasing by 2.3 percent between 1995-2003, there has been a:

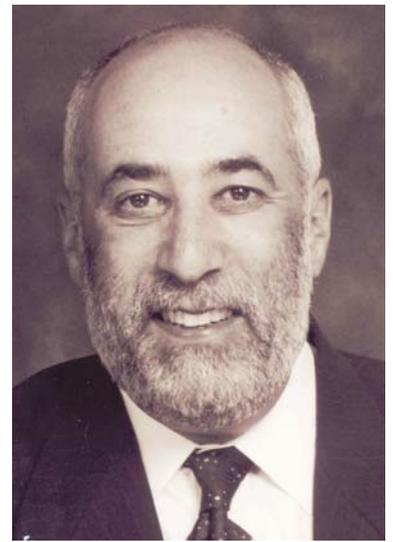
- Nine-fold increase, from 47 to 475, in the number of inmates under the age of 21 who are educationally handicapped and have been placed in spe-

cial education programming.

- 70 percent increase in vocational titles earned by inmates, from 6,936 to 11,784.
- 47 percent increase in the number of residential sex offender treatment beds, from 347 to 511.
- 18 percent increase in inmate participation in substance abuse treatment programs, from 28,497 to 33,753. The increase includes program expansion to serve targeted populations including those in disciplinary housing, convicted of driving while intoxicated, sex offenders with substance abuse needs, inmates with special education needs, parole violators and those with histories of domestic violence.
- 13 percent increase in inmate vocational enrollment, from 31,413 to 35,567.
- 4 percent increase in enrollment in basic academic education, from 39,576 to 41,292.
- 41 percent decline in inmate-on-staff assaults, from 962 in 1995 down to 568 in 2003. That's the fewest since 1981, when there were 430 such assaults and 23,558 inmates.
- 59 percent decrease in inmate-on-inmate assaults, from 1,741 to 713. That's the fewest since 1982, when there were 705 assaults and 27,157 inmates.
- There has been an average of one escape per year from secure areas (inside a prison or while under outside escort) between 1995-2003, compared to three per year in the previous nine-year period.
- There has been an average of two inmate homicides each year from 1995-2003, compared to more than four per year in the previous nine-year period.

We will periodically publish more of our record, either under the *Spotlight* column or individual facts that we'll display separately as "DOCS Data," such as appears on pages 9, 11 and 12.

I think all employees will join me in being proud of our record. Let's continue to work together to make it even better. 📖



Commissioner Goord

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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 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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Overall crime drops 3.5% in New York; violent crime by 5.6%

Crime reduction exceeds U.S. average; declines total 45 percent since 1994

Governor George E. Pataki has released New York state crime statistics showing a drop in crime for the tenth consecutive year in the state, which continues to outpace the nation in reducing crime.

The preliminary 2003 statistics show New York with an estimated 5.6 percent decline in violent crimes, an 8 percent decline in aggravated assaults, and a 3 percent drop in property crime. This exceeds the drop in crime for the rest of the nation, which only had a 3.2 percent drop in violent crimes, a 4.1 percent decline in aggravated assaults, and a 0.1 percent drop in property crime.

Since 1994, overall crime in New York has declined by over 45 percent, violent crimes have declined by over 50 percent and property crimes have declined by nearly 44 percent.

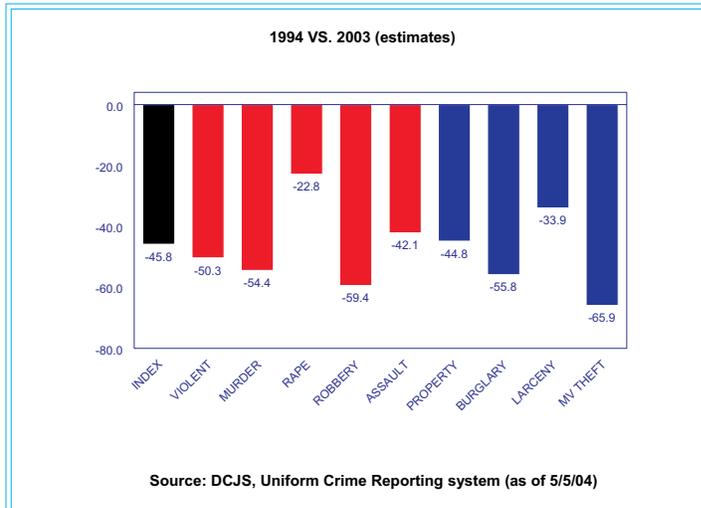
“The statistics clearly show that New York’s tough, yet smart criminal justice policies have made New York the safest large State in the nation,” Governor Pataki said. “For the past decade crime has continued to drop in our State and violent crime has been cut by more than half. By enacting common sense reforms, keeping violent criminals behind bars and providing strong support for our law enforcement professionals, we have achieved an historic reduction in crime that continues to outpace the rest of the nation.”

“While these results are impressive, we are in a position where we can and must do more. We must enact additional legislation to keep New Yorkers safe and secure,” the Governor said. “I have repeatedly called for new legislation to expand the DNA data bank to include all convicted criminals, toughen the penalties for gun trafficking, provide greater protection from sexual predators by placing all sex offenders on the Internet, and eliminating the statute of limitations for rape.”

Compared to national FBI data, the newly released estimates for 2003 show that violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) declined by more than 5 percent in New York State, compared to only a 3.2 percent decrease nationwide. Additionally, assaults in New York have declined by 8 percent and robberies by 3 percent, while assaults on the national level have only decreased by 4 percent and robbery by 2 percent. Homicides in New York increased 1.9 percent, compared to a national increase of 1.3 percent. Rape decreased 0.1 percent compared to 1.9 percent nationally.

Property offenses (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft)

declined by 3 percent in New York State, and 0.1 percent nationwide. New York State had declines of 1.2 percent for burglary, 2.9 percent for larceny and 6.8 percent for motor vehicle theft. In stark contrast, the rest of the nation experienced increases of 0.4 percent for burglary, a 0.5 percent decrease for larceny, and a 1.4 percent increase in motor vehicle theft.



In order to help make New York the safest state in the nation, the Governor launched Operation IMPACT and announced a plan to bring 90 percent of police officers in the state online to eJusticeNY, a crime-fighting tool for law enforcement. Also, in his 2004 State of the State Address, Governor Pataki called for initiatives to help reach the ambitious goal of making New York the safest state in the nation over the next five years. The pieces of legislation include:

- Eliminate the statute of limitations for rape, sexual assault, and other violent felonies;
- End parole for all felons;
- Provide police and prosecutors the laws they need to take those who use, sell or possess illegal guns off our streets;
- Strengthen our laws against domestic violence and those who terrorize their spouses or families;
- Provide mandatory arrest of domestic violence abusers;
- Deny custody and visitation privileges to domestic violence abusers;
- Guarantee that violent felons who murder a child in the course of committing a crime spend the rest of their lives in prison;
- Ensure that sexually violent criminals who pose a threat are not released into our communities;
- Strengthen Megan’s Law to provide the public with additional information and impose penalties on sex offenders who fail to comply;
- Establish a gang sexual assault law to prosecute these despicable crimes as felonies;
- Take deadly drivers off our streets by giving new tools to prosecutors and toughening penalties for dangerous driving;
- Enact the Pena-Herrera DWI bill to strengthen DWI laws;
- Provide jail time for chronic misdemeanor offenders to stop career criminals, and
- Severely punish those who violate the trust placed in them by endangering a child in their care. 📖

1,400 employees participate in 20th annual DOCS Olympic games

New events attract more participants as Green Haven staff takes top honors

Nearly 1,400 employees and retirees ran, jumped, pushed, pulled, threw, kicked, swung, batted, putted, shot and otherwise propelled themselves through the 20th annual DOCS Olympics at venues throughout the Capital region the week of June 7.

For the fifth year in succession the Olympics were scheduled to coincide with the Department's annual Memorial Service and Medals Ceremony, held June 10 at the Training Academy. The Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to Inv. Michael L. Williams and Medals of Merit were presented to seven employees for acts of valor.

At the ceremony a 35th name was also added to the Memorial Roll of prison employees who have died in the line of duty since 1861 as the result of inmate actions.

This year's Commissioner's Trophy was captured by Green Haven, which also took top honors in the A Division color guard competition for the third year in a row. Cocksackie's color guard team won top prize in the B Division color guard competition.

Olympics Director Dave Barringer said Green Haven's selection reflects the outstanding performance of its color guard, staff participation and overall sportsmanship.

Commissioner Goord, who will present the trophy at the facility, congratulated the Green Haven team members for their "outstanding participation and success in the games, great facility spirit and exemplary preparation and cooperation.

"I extend my thanks to all DOCS staff who participated in the Olympics or stayed behind in their facilities to allow fellow employees to attend," the Commissioner added. "And once again, the Olympics Committee and its leadership organized a top-rate event. They earned the gratitude of their colleagues."

Green Haven became the 16th facility to win the Commissioner's Trophy in its 20-year history. Other winners are Cocksackie (2003 and 2002), Woodbourne (2001), Central Office (2000), Fishkill (1999 and 1997), Willard (1998), Gowanda (1996), Mohawk (1995), Auburn (1994 and 1993), Riverview (1992), Oneida (1991 and 1990), Mid-State (1989), Sing Sing (1988), Eastern (1987), Downstate (1986) and Collins (1985).

Early-summer weather contributed to the success of the games. While the 5k and 10k races in the middle of the week were casualties of a thunder and lightning storm, otherwise sunny skies generally prevailed and the events proceeded on schedule.

"It was a very good year for us," said Mr. Barringer, who credited the dedication and hard work of the Olympic Committee and volunteers, together with executive support for the competition, in making the event a success.

The director is assisted by an organizing committee and sup-

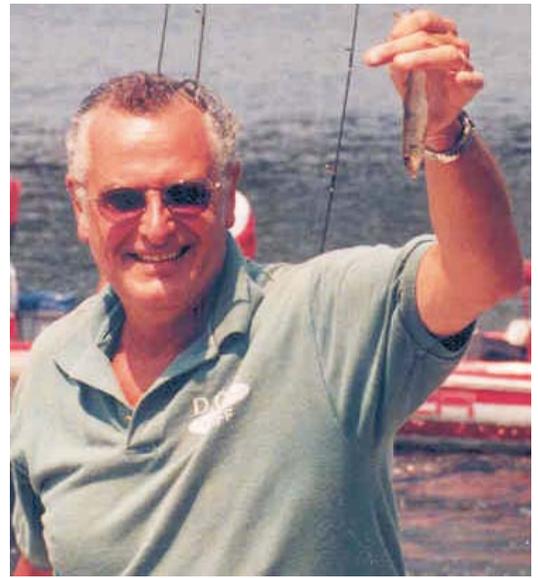
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Does the volleyball break the light? No.



Green Haven marches off with the A Division color guard gold.



This fish is smaller than the Olympic medals.



Weighty decisions in determining the winners.

Continued from facing page

plemental staff of 40, a group that includes many long-time staffers and several retirees. Olympics coordinators in each facility also contribute to the organization of the games.

“It’s like a family,” Mr. Barringer said of the support team. “They do a great job and they work really hard.”

He said two new events this year, Hudson River fishing and the long ball golf driving contest, were well received and will be continued next year. Newer events such as indoor soccer, paintball, go-cart racing and miniature golf saw an increase in interest and have become an established part of the Olympic schedule, he said.

Also new on the scene this year was a commemorative sweat shirt with an anniversary logo handed out to competitors to mark the occasion when they registered.

The golfing events were the most popular, if one counts min-

ature golf, with 462 contestants, almost exactly the same as last year. Purists who might be inclined to dismiss miniature golf as less than robust (although arguably less frustrating) would give the nod to the softballers, nearly 450 of whom trod the base lines in this year’s competition.

Other top events in terms of number of competitors were bowling, pistol shooting, basketball and volleyball.

With some Olympians participating in multiple events, a total of 2,978 competitors vied in the games.

In terms of best-represented facilities as a percentage of total employees, the top five in descending order were Coxsackie, Beacon, Upstate, Sullivan and Fishkill. All sent more than 10 percent of their employees to the games and were the only facilities to reach that threshold.

All employees who compete in the Olympics do so on their own personal time and pay their own expenses. 📖



Enjoying the good weather of Olympic week.



Coxsackie earns the B Division color guard gold medal.



Employees hone their shooting skills in a safe location.



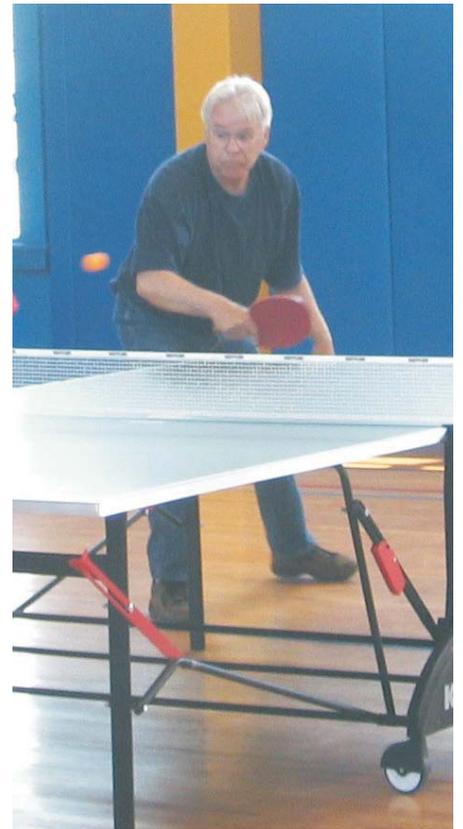
Col. Mark Vann watches as Commissioner Goord presents gold medal to Sgt. Richard Woodward and the Fishkill CERT.



Good sportsmanship and camaraderie make the Olympics a successful event.



A fast break in a game of 3-on-3.



A study in concentration.

More Olympic photos on pages 8 and 15.



Conversation is as much a part of miniature golf as the play itself.



The difference between a good day and a bad one is where the ball lands.



Participants above and below decide the best way to burn the greatest number of carbs.



Facility Highlights

Corcraft ingenuity designs mess hall table that makes prisons safer

Single-unit steel table construction reduces use as weapon by inmates

The continued ingenuity of employees at the Department's Division of Industries ("Corcraft") is helping to make prisons across the state safer.

Industry inmates at Fishkill have been assembling new state-of-the-art mess hall tables that are much more secure than their antiquated predecessors. The sturdy, stainless-steel tables feature no detachable parts – including the circular seats which are attached to the table itself – meaning inmates cannot use any part of these new tables as a weapon to attack staff or other inmates.

"These tables will probably never have to be replaced," said Division of Industries Director James Hoffman. "They're sturdy and they're a definite security enhancement when compared with the tables of the past. These tables are also very cost-effective."

Over the past several years, more than 3,000 of these new mess hall tables – which come in various sizes and configurations – have been installed in prisons throughout the state. As of early October, an additional 400 orders were pending.



One of the tables designed and built at Fishkill.

The tables come in two sizes – one consisting of four seats and one consisting of six. They can also be bolted together and extended into 12-seat or even larger tables to help attain an efficient use of space in facility mess halls.

Tables are also being constructed without some seats in order to accommodate disabled inmates confined to wheelchairs. That helps the Department meet its legal requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and helps shield it from the prospects of lawsuits that could cost taxpayers dollars.

A four-seat mess hall table retails for \$900 while a six-seat table goes for \$1,250. Tables constructed to accommodate the disabled sell for between \$800 and \$1,000, depending on the number of seats that are included.

For example, some tables geared for the disabled may include no seats while a few seats may be eliminated on some tables to provide adequate access for the several disabled inmates as well as seating for non-disabled inmates.

Previously, many mess halls featured free-standing tables that also included free-standing seats that at times were used by inmates as weapons. These new tables eliminate that possibility.

The tables are shipped to individual facilities and are then installed by facility maintenance staff. They are bolted to the floor, and the absence of any moving or detachable parts greatly improves security in facility mess halls, which can at times become a volatile environment.

Although the Division of Industries has recently branched out and has been selling several of its varied products to other states across the country, there are currently no plans to sell the new mess hall tables to other prison systems.

However, Mr. Hoffman did not rule out that possibility in the future, once the Department has met its inventory needs and market conditions are analyzed. 

DOCS Data: criminal prosecutions

A total of 4,196 cases of inmate misconduct were referred for criminal prosecution from the Governor's 1996 creation of the Inmate Criminal Prosecution Task Force through the end of 2003. A total of 2,042 inmates were convicted for crimes committed in prison – 1,782 of them felonies. Minus open cases, that is a conviction rate of 63 percent. New York accounted for 119 of the 840 inmate assaults (14 percent) prosecuted nationwide in 2001, according to the latest annual data available in *The Corrections Yearbook*TM.

'Puppies Behind Bars' enrich lives of both the disabled and inmates

Program now operates in four prisons, includes training dogs to sniff for bombs

Part of the Puppies Behind Bars program helps restore lives. The other part helps save them. Inmates play a critical role in both missions, which continue to grow.

The not-for-profit Puppies Behind Bars program brought its unique offering into Bedford Hills in November 1997. The New York City-based program's partnership with the Department has since been expanded to include Fishkill, Mid-Orange and now Wallkill, where six dogs are in training and another four may arrive before the end of the year.

Commissioner Goord is a member of the organization's board of directors while Mrs. Libby Pataki, the Governor's wife, is a member of its advisory board.

In less than seven years the program has grown from the original five inmate-trained dogs at Bedford Hills to the current 43 dogs in training at the four DOCS facilities, together with another 17 dogs being trained by federal inmates in Connecticut and New Jersey.

During that time the program's mission has also evolved. Founded to prepare dogs to serve as guides for the blind, Puppies Behind Bars took on the added role of helping meet law enforcement's need for explosive-detection dogs.



New York City Police Detective Glenn Osterman with Bowmann.

Since its start more than 200 dogs have been or are currently involved in the Puppies Behind Bars program. At present 34 animals (all but two of which were trained by DOCS inmates) are serving as guide dogs, while 17 are working as bomb sniffers for the New York Police Department, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and for law enforcement agencies in South Africa, Italy, Cyprus, Egypt and Malaysia.



Ms. Judy Goldman walks with the assistance of Lucie, the first guide dog trained at Bedford Hills.

Judy Goldman received her first guide dog, Lucie, the first graduate at Bedford Hills, in 1999.

She said the dog has literally freed her from imprisonment in her own home.

Ms. Goldman explained, "She's changed my life tremendously. It's given me complete independence and freedom to do what I want."

She lost her vision slowly following a stroke in the spring of 1997 ("the symptoms

were very subtle"), and inevitably she could no longer work as a nurse or pursue her active life with her husband and grown children.

"I went through terrible depression," she recalled. "It was very depressing, very frightening. I lost my freedom. I was confined to my home because the outside world was frightening."

At a vision rehabilitation center, where she spent several weeks re-learning life skills and how to get around with a cane, she noticed that people with guide dogs were able to maneuver more easily and safely than she could.

So she started learning about guide dogs and ultimately applied for one in 1998.

A year later came the call from The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind on Long Island about a possible match.

"My family put me on a plane and I went to New York, scared to death," she said.

There, Ms. Goldman was matched with Lucie. After about a week and a half of training together she was summoned to a meeting, not knowing why but fearful of the worst.

"It's a day I'll never forget," she said.

Continued on facing page

... in a challenging training program that is closely monitored

Training the Puppies Behind Bars dogs is hard work that demands a full-time commitment, so only selected inmates are chosen for the program. All are volunteers.

Each puppy raiser is screened by both facility staff and Puppies Behind Bars personnel. To qualify, an inmate must have a clean disciplinary record for at least a year, must participate actively in facility programs and must be considered reliable and trustworthy. Inmates must also have at least two years remaining before their parole eligibility date so they can stay with the dogs for the entire training period.

After an initial round of preliminary interviews, potential inmate trainers are also given a psychological exam. If all standards are met, Puppies Behind Bars staff decide which inmates to admit to the program based on the interviews, the inmate's record and discussion with prison staff.

Inmates are required to sign a contract outlining their responsibilities to the puppies and the program. The contract makes clear that an inmate may be asked to leave the program for any reason considered appropriate by the Department or by the Puppies Behind Bars organization.

Requirements for program participation include mandatory attendance at weekly puppy class and successful completion of reading assignments, homework and exams. Puppy raisers must always put the needs of the puppy before their own, must

be able to work as a member of a team and must be able to give and receive criticism in a constructive manner.

The puppies, all Labrador retrievers, arrive at the facility at age eight to 10 weeks. Over the next 15 to 16 months they will be the constant companion – and responsibility – of their inmate trainers, attending regular programming with the inmates during the day and sleeping in the inmates' cells during the night.

The program is designed to socialize the dogs and help them develop the self-confidence they will need to become successful in guiding blind persons or detecting explosives.

As much as possible, the dogs are exposed to the variety of settings and stimuli in the prison environment while under the loving care of their trainers. The puppies are housebroken, taught basic obedience skills, groomed daily and trained according to strict guide dog rules.

For safety and other reasons, the dogs are not allowed in an industries area, vocational welding shop, Special Needs Unit or mess hall.

When the dogs reach 18 months old, their training by inmates ends and they leave the facility. Some will advance to guide dog school, others to law enforcement school. Animals considered not appropriate for professional training will be donated to families with seriously or terminally ill children or children with special needs. 

Puppies Behind Bars ...

Continued from facing page

There she learned for the first time that Lucie had been trained by inmates at Bedford.

“They told me ‘Your dog was raised in a prison in a new program called Puppies Behind Bars.’ The first thing I remember saying was, ‘You’re telling me my dog was raised by prisoners?’ The second thing I said was, ‘They did a great job.’”

In the spring of 2000 Judy went to Bedford to meet the women who had trained Lucie (“I was very nervous,” she admits).

The inmates baked her a cake.

“It was very emotional,” she said. “The women who raised Lucie cried. I cried. They said they had a sense of pride in making my life easier.”

Judy hopes to make yearly visits to all the Puppies Behind Bars prisons to thank the inmate trainers personally for their dedication to the program.

DOCS Data: program expenditures

Program Services expenditures increased by 23 percent from \$156 million in Fiscal Year 1995 to \$191 million in Fiscal Year 2004, while the inmate population dropped by 2.3 percent.

“I have such respect for the men and women who are raising these puppies,” she said. “It’s not an easy job.”

Glenn Ostermann, a detective in the NYPD bomb squad, shares that respect.

He and Bowmann, a 2002 graduate of inmate training at Fishkill, have been paired for two years. Together they search for explosives at sports stadiums, parade routes, motorcades, piers, hotels and other high-risk locations. So far their bomb sniffing has come up, fortunately, empty.

“If he can go through his whole time without finding anything other than in training, that’s great,” Det. Ostermann said.

The detective and his partner rely on each other in their dangerous occupation, so good training of the dog is essential.

“We have trust in each other. It’s a good working relationship,” said Det. Ostermann. “It’s kind of the best of both worlds, like having a partner you take home.”

Bowmann is very much a part of the detective’s family, even joining them sometimes on vacations and at church services.

“He’s very well accepted in the family,” the detective said.

During his training with the dog, Det. Ostermann went to Fishkill to thank inmates and to encourage them in their work that makes communities safer.

“I can’t say enough about Puppies Behind Bars, both the organization and the work the inmates do,” he said.

“I think it’s a great service.” 

Mohawk's 'run and walk' has special meaning for employees

America's Greatest Heart Run and Walk in Utica had special meaning this year for Mohawk's team. They were participating in memory of two deceased members of the Mohawk family and in support of six employees and retirees who continue to face ongoing, serious heart problems.

This year's event at Utica College was the 30th annual fund raiser and marked the sixth consecutive year in which "Team Mohawk – the Chain Gang" has taken part.

They honored former Mohawk facility and Oneida hub superintendent Edward F. Reynolds, who died March 1, 2001 at age 55, and former teacher Mary Lou Solon, who died July 26, 2003 at age 48, both from heart-related conditions.

They also walked and ran in support of fellow employees Barb LoMedico, keyboard specialist at Mohawk; Joseph Longo, head cook at Mohawk; Rev. Louis Olguin, part-time chaplain at Walsh Regional Medical Unit; Dianne Krishock, nurse 2 at Walsh; Rain Leddick, LPN at Walsh, and retired Mohawk CO Carol Dipolito.

All six have faced and are dealing with heart ailments.

The Mohawk team raised more than \$2,300 in this year's event.

Mr. Reynolds, whose son Floyd (Buddy) Reynolds is a CO at Oneida, joined state service in 1969 and DOCS three years later as a principal account clerk at Attica.

The late Edward Reynolds' career took him to Albion and Eastern where he supervised programs, to Elmira as steward and to Bedford Hills and Eastern as deputy superintendent at Eastern.

After serving as superintendent at Watertown and Oneida, he was appointed superintendent at Mohawk in 1994. At the time of Mr. Reynolds' death Commissioner Goord said, "Ed was my close friend as well as colleague for more than two decades. He was the consummate professional and his love and caring for people were the hallmark of his professional and personal lives."

Ms. Winner, secretary at Mohawk since it opened in 1989, recalls Mr. Reynolds fondly.

"He was one of the nicest men I've ever met," she said. "He

loved his grandkids, just lived for his grandkids."

She said Supt. Reynolds was devoted also to his co-workers and staff at Mohawk. Their concerns became his concerns.

"He always had an open-door policy. Everybody felt comfortable with him," she said. "He was always very involved with employees. You could go talk to him about anything."



"The Chain Gang" includes Elana Schipano, daughter of Mohawk nurse Naomi Schipano.

Since Mr. Reynolds' death his widow Kathleen has established a college scholarship fund in his name. It makes an annual award to children of employees of the Oneida hub.

Mrs. Solon, whose husband Randy is a payroll clerk in Central Office following service in Watertown and Oneida, joined DOCS as a teacher in Watertown in 1985. She transferred to Oneida in 1988 and to Mohawk in 1991.

Jim Mance, deputy superintendent for programs at Mohawk, was the education director at Watertown who hired Mary Lou. He and his family have been close friends of the Solons ever since. Their children went to day care and kindergarten together.

He observed that Mrs. Solon had the temperament and demeanor to teach adult basic education, where progress is often slow and measured in tiny steps.

"She was always calm and patient with the students. At that level even the smallest accomplishment has to be acknowledged," he said. "She was always motivated."

He said she had the same affect on co-workers. "She was just always very cheerful, very steady. She would do things for other people but not draw attention to it."

Even as her health worsened, he said, Mary Lou's attitude did not, continuing to work without complaint. "She was the sort of person who dealt with what the Lord gave her," he said.

Randy Solon said the encouragement, support and compassion of DOCS people, including hundreds of hours of donated time as Mary Lou traveled for surgeries, greatly eased the stress of her illness on her family.

"The kindness of everyone in the corrections family has been so overwhelming," he said. "Over the last few years during our many trips to the Mayo Clinic, people would ask 'how could you possibly work at a correctional facility?' We would always respond about how we enjoyed our work mostly because of the great people we work with." 

DOCS Data: time served

Time served for all violent offenses has increased an average of 57 percent, from 47 months in 1995 to 73 months in 2003.

Transitions

June 2004

Name Title Facility

Promotions

Gerald Hall Maintenance Assistant Adirondack
 James R. Brown General Mechanic Adirondack
 Shanda L. Stevens Clerk 2 Albion
 Bonnie L. Elsenheimer Clerk 2 Albion
 Barbara A. Quinn Clerk 2 Attica
 Douglas R. Brown Maintenance Supervisor 1 Attica
 Kevin G. Halpin Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Auburn
 Michele M. Courtney Senior Mail & Supply Clerk Auburn
 Kathleen M. Caci Pharmacy Aide Auburn
 Patricia A. Hall Calculations Clerk 2 Auburn
 Gary J. Decker Recreation Program Leader 1 Auburn
 Noreen A. Poirier Mail & Supply Clerk Bare Hill
 Paul M. Berry Cook Bare Hill
 Brian J. Conto Vocational Instructor 2 Bare Hill
 Barbara Cotter Principal Stores Clerk Cape Vincent
 Joanne Matton Calculations Clerk 2 Chateaugay
 Joseph Bola Plant Superintendent A. Clinton
 Amy S. Sweeney Psychologist 2 Clinton
 Richard J. Akey General Mechanic Clinton
 Mitzi L. Merlino Clerk 2 Coxsackie
 Deborah Stanborough Principal Clerk Personnel. Coxsackie
 Richard J. Shubert Clerk 2 Downstate
 Carmelo G. Giunta Maintenance Assistant Downstate
 Dawn M. Boughton Principal Account Clerk. Elmira
 Sonja Y. Howe Head Laundry Supervisor Elmira
 John Delbianco Maint. Assist. (Carpenter) Fishkill
 Carolyn S. Jordan Nurse Administrator 1 Fishkill
 Benjamin Zoleski Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Fishkill
 Justin B. Sassone Main. Assist. (Electrician). Fishkill
 Robert Guido Education Supervisor (Voc) Five Points
 Faith L. Poth Clerk 2 Five Points
 Susan Alexander Secretary 1 Five Points
 Susan Trimm Clerk 2 Franklin
 Lana E. Mulvana Calculations Clerk 2 Franklin
 Gina R. Orr Calculations Clerk 2 Gouverneur
 George Civiletto Head Cook Gowanda
 Josephine A. Kennedy Commissary Clerk 2 Gowanda
 Melanie Jones Correction Counselor. Great Meadow
 Karen A. Tompkins Stores Clerk 2 Green Haven
 Christopher Gil Maintenance Supervisor 3 Greene
 Susan E. Zeh Senior Mail & Supply Clerk Groveland
 Mark G. Battaglia Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Groveland
 Latha Kaliath Education Supervisor (Gen) Hale Creek

Lynn Conners Food Administrator 1 Hale Creek
 Eustace O. Esbrand Senior Mail & Supply Clerk Lincoln
 Howard Rockhill Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Livingston
 Kathleen J. DeCelle Head Account Clerk Lyon Mountain
 Helen E. Burl Principal Clerk Personnel. Main Office
 Deborah M. Dayton Purchasing Agent Main Office
 Thomas M. DelCogliano Tractor Trailer Dispatcher Main Office
 Thomas L. Johnston Chief of Data Processing Svcs Main Office
 Michael H. Busch Information Processing Trainer Main Office
 Denise Johnson Secretary 1 Main Office
 Michael P. Barber Tandem Tractor Trailer Op Main Office
 John G. Ernst Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Mid-Orange
 Alfred Hines Head Cook Mid-Orange
 Richard L. Mowers Plant Utilities Engineer 2 Mid-State
 Mary Carr Stores Clerk 2 Mohawk
 Christopher Gundersen Plant Superintendent C. Mt. McGregor
 Mohammad Q. Khan Plant Superintendent C. Ogdensburg
 Patrick M. Pirillo Plumber & Steamfitter Oneida
 Kathleen A. True Secretary 2 Orleans
 Lynda T. Standish Secretary 1 Orleans
 Jacqueline Reynolds Calculations Clerk 2 Shawangunk
 Lev Toybis Plant Utilities Engineer 1 Sing Sing
 Xavier J. Koottappillil Principal Stores Clerk Sing Sing
 Mary Anne Hughes Commissary Clerk 2 Southport
 Yvonne M. Cronk Cook Summit SICF
 Mary M. Brower Clerk 2 Upstate
 Stacy J. Quinn Calculations Clerk 2 Upstate
 Kathleen Monroe Clerk 2 Walkkill
 Roger A. Benish Plant Superintendent C. Washington
 George R. Frasier Plant Superintendent C. Watertown
 Karen M. Fox Inmate Records Coordinator 1 Wende
 Francine M. Warne Calculations Clerk 2 Willard
 Beverly H. Courtwright Principal Account Clerk. Willard
 Donna M. Martin Head Cook Willard
 John J. Tucker Plant Utilities Engineer 3 Wyoming
 Cheryl L. Cole Head Account Clerk Wyoming
 Gregg E. Esposito Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
 Harry D. Hetrick, Jr. Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
 Michael Polinsky Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
 Linda Terenzini Correction Lieutenant Bayview
 Jeffrey C. Zink Correction Lieutenant Edgecombe
 Darrell B. Thomas Correction Lieutenant Edgecombe
 John J. Taylor, Jr. Correction Lieutenant Green Haven
 John B. Snyder Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
 Witold Suski Correction Lieutenant Queensboro

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Keven H. Smith Correction Lieutenant Taconic
 Karita M. Brown Correction Sergeant Bedford Hills
 Alan H. Poley Correction Sergeant Bedford Hills
 Tom W. Turnbull Correction Sergeant Bedford Hills
 Joseph G. Bourdeau, Jr. Correction Sergeant Bedford Hills
 Michael D. Woodworth Correction Sergeant Downstate
 Thomas E. Corey Correction Sergeant Fishkill
 Steven M. Hucul Correction Sergeant Fishkill
 Michael G. Sovie Correction Sergeant Green Haven
 Alan J. Smith Correction Sergeant Green Haven
 John M. Hyland Correction Sergeant Green Haven
 William Bisso Correction Sergeant Lincoln
 Robert Pangborn Correction Sergeant Otisville
 Darin Williams Correction Sergeant Otisville
 Robert J. Clerc Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
 James Harvey Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
 Richard Beall Correction Sergeant Sullivan
 Arthur Tipton Correction Sergeant Sullivan
 Theodore R. Connors Correction Sergeant Sullivan
 Vincent A. Costello Correction Sergeant Taconic
 Paul Dowling, Jr. Correction Sergeant Taconic

Retirements

Roberta Coward Superintendent Bayview
 Silvia Thompson Nurse 2 Bayview
 Bruce Umlas Counselor (Spanish Lang) Bedford Hills
 Heino Puding Assist Indus Supt. Clinton
 Karen Mitchell Clerk 2 Eastern
 Patrick Moore Nurse 2 Gouverneur
 Priscilla M. Graupman Recreation Program Leader 2 Gowanda
 Katherine G. Catoggio Correction Counselor Great Meadow
 C. R. Skinner Gen Indus Training Supr Great Meadow
 Elizabeth A. Whitman Correction Counselor Green Haven
 Robert S. Stevenson Vocational Instructor 4 Groveland
 Donna J. Demarco Supr Industries Purchasing Main Office

Patricia A. Bowles Assoc Computer Prog Analyst Main Office
 Andrew J. Maceda Vocational Instructor 4 Mid-Orange
 Henry S. Devries Nurse 2 Mid-Orange
 Susan Rosher Correction Counselor Mohawk
 Susan Anson Teacher 4 Moriah
 Martin Rosenberg Clerk 1 NYC Admin
 Michael C. O'Keefe Correction Counselor Oneida
 Marian R. McCourt Secretary 2 Orleans
 Brij Sinha Clinical Physician 2 Orleans
 Frieda Etkin Correction Counselor Otisville
 James Bond Food Administrator 1 Queensboro
 Edward J. Tully Correction Counselor Sing Sing
 Joseph J. Staniorski Plant Utilities Engineer 3 Sing Sing
 Paul J. Titus Senior Correction Counselor Southport
 Elsa N. Kubik Clerk 2 Summit
 Anne Wells Food Administrator 2 Ulster
 Betty L. Valerio Secretary 2 Willard
 Melvin Cooperman Teacher 4 Woodbourne
 Elias Carrillo Dep Supt for Security 3 Woodbourne
 Dianne B. Steves Keyboard Specialist 1 Wyoming
 Joseph Parrish Correction Lieutenant Great Meadow
 Thomas G. Marlow Correction Lieutenant Lyon Mountain
 George Dawson, Jr. Correction Lieutenant Marcy
 David F. Keys Correction Lieutenant Moriah
 Richard Strong Correction Lieutenant Southport
 Ludrick E. Fabian Correction Lieutenant Washington
 Billy A. Facticeau Correction Sergeant Clinton
 James McMenemy Correction Sergeant Eastern
 Mark G. Grochan Correction Sergeant Hudson
 Harold E. Root, Jr. Correction Sergeant Monterey SICF
 Michael A. Kelly Correction Sergeant Shawangunk
 Brian L. Norton Correction Sergeant Wyoming
 Leland C. Flint Correction Officer Adirondack
 Craig W. Bowman Correction Officer Adirondack
 Mark St. Louis Correction Officer Adirondack
 Wesley Stanton Correction Officer Adirondack
 Martin Marciniak Correction Officer Albion
 Eileen Overbaugh Correction Officer Altona
 Shannon Danielle Correction Officer Attica
 Michael E. Speck Correction Officer Attica
 Douglas W. Vangieson, Sr. Correction Officer Beacon
 Michael Donovan Correction Officer Camp Pharsalia
 Henry A. Cormier Correction Officer Chateaugay
 John W. Lavigne Correction Officer Chateaugay
 Lawrence L. Peets Correction Officer Chateaugay
 Arthur L. Dolaway Correction Officer Clinton
 Wayne D. Emerson Correction Officer Clinton
 Timothy R. McCallister Correction Officer Clinton
 Lawrence Whalen Correction Officer Clinton

Continued on next page

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: www.state.ny.us

Commissioner Goord: www.docs.state.ny.us

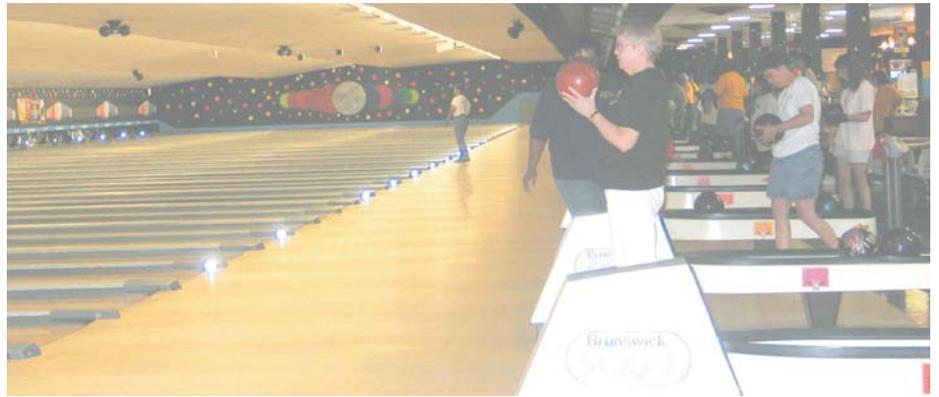
Colorized editions of DOCS|TODAY, beginning with the January 2003 edition, now appear on the DOCS website. Editions are posted as PDFs when they are sent to the Elmira print shop for publication. 



A jump shot did nicely here.



Wyoming color guard competes in Olympics.



Bowling remains a popular Olympic sport.

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Roy D. Beck	Correction Officer.	Clinton
Stanley F. Williams	Correction Officer.	Coxsackie
Wayne Clark	Correction Officer.	Coxsackie
Alan Hodges	Correction Officer.	Coxsackie
Leopold Mazzella	Correction Officer.	Downstate
Murray M. Venus	Correction Officer.	Downstate
Robert A. Grant	Correction Officer.	Eastern
Richard G. Mills	Correction Officer.	Fishkill
Vincent Musso	Correction Officer.	Fishkill
Thomas Szczepanek	Correction Officer.	Gowanda
Robert A. Acken	Correction Officer.	Green Haven
Michael Sawitsky	Correction Officer.	Green Haven
Robert Forbes	Correction Officer.	Green Haven
Edmond W. Hodgens	Correction Officer.	Greene
Scott Nesbitt	Correction Officer.	Hale Creek
John J. Gorrow	Correction Officer.	Hudson

Adeline E. Oare	Correction Officer.	Mid-State
Richard L. Willey	Correction Officer.	Mt. McGregor
C. E. Paul	Correction Officer.	Mt. McGregor
Bruce C. Brege	Correction Officer.	Orleans
Jessie R. Gadson	Correction Officer.	Queensboro
Elvin Ricketts	Correction Officer.	Sing Sing
Kenneth M. Petty	Correction Officer.	Summit SICF
Gerald L. Burselson	Correction Officer.	Ulster
George A. Paquette	Correction Officer.	Washington
Karen Hoek	Correction Officer.	Watertown
Robert W. Hillson	Correction Officer.	Woodbourne

Deaths

Gloria A. Perry	Nurse 2.	Edgecombe
Jane M. Gruby	Nursing Assistant 2.	Mohawk
Joseph Schoonmaker	Correction Officer.	Eastern
Aonald P. Goff	Correction Officer.	Gt. Meadow ☒

CO exam scheduled for Oct. 30 to maintain safe, secure prisons

To maintain record levels of safety and security in New York's prisons, a competitive Civil Service exam for the position of Correction Officer Trainee, both English- and Spanish-speaking, will be given statewide on Oct. 30.

The starting annual salary for an Officer is \$28,444. Upon successful completion of the eight-week training program and a one-year probationary period, the annual salary increases to \$34,742. Officers also receive a comprehensive health insurance program, benefits package and retirement program. There are rewarding career opportunities within the Department as well.

Commissioner Goord said, "We encourage as many people as possible to take this exam. Our goal is to continue to diversify our work force by offering opportunities within DOCS to as many qualified individuals as possible."

He added, "The Correction Officers of New York have demonstrated time and again that they are among the most professional and hardest-working employees of this state. I urge all eligible New Yorkers, especially women and minorities, to consider joining their ranks for a rewarding and fulfilling career."

Protecting today's Correction Officers

The number of New York state's Correction Officers rose from 18,832 in January 1995 to 19,007 in December 2003. The prison population declined by 2.3 percent over the same period, from 66,750 inmates down to 65,197. In mid-July, there were 19,500 Officers to cover posts and staff absences around-the-clock to supervise 64,749 inmates.

By comparison, the independent *Corrections Yearbook*TM showed that in 2002, the latest year for which comparable national data are available, California had 19,294 Officers to provide around-the-clock supervision for 150,942 inmates, Texas had 22,495 Officers for 129,846 inmates while Florida had 10,356 Officers for 68,408 inmates.

DOCS experienced a modest 4 percent attrition rate in 2002 for Officers leaving for all reasons – compared to a national average that year of 17 percent, with rates of 23 percent in Texas, 18 percent in Florida and 17 percent in California, according to 2002 data, the latest available from *The Corrections Yearbook*.

New York's Officers have contributed greatly to making their work place more secure. The number of inmate-on-staff assaults has declined by 41 percent in recent years, from 962 among an average daily population of 68,164 inmates in 1995 to 568 among 66,050 inmates last year. Last year's number was the fewest since 1981, when there were 430 such assaults among an average daily population of 23,558 inmates.

The Corrections Yearbook reports that DOCS initiated 119 inmate-on-staff assault criminal prosecutions in 2001, the latest year for which national data is available, or one-seventh of the 810 filed in prisons nationwide.

How to join tomorrow's ranks of our Correction Officers

Despite a staff transfer freeze at some state prisons while the inmate population declines and DOCS analyzes bed needs, new staff is always needed to offset attrition that occurs at the rate of 30 Officers bi-weekly.

Approximately 80 percent of the 6,752 applicants tested in New York in November 2000 passed the exam. The number and percent passing increased in November 2003, when more than 81 percent of the 7,488 applicants tested passed the exam.

Individuals interested in taking October's competitive exam must complete an application and forward it along with a non-refundable \$30 application fee to the New York State Department of Civil Service at Building One, State Office Campus, Albany, N.Y., 12239. Applications can be obtained from that office and at local New York State Employment Offices, regional Civil Service offices and state correctional facilities.

Applications can be obtained by contacting the DOCS Correction Officer Recruitment Unit at Building 2, State Office Campus, 1220 Washington Avenue, Albany, N.Y., 12226. Additionally, information may be obtained via the internet at the Department's Website: www.docs.state.ny.us

Completed applications to take the exam must be postmarked no later than August 30.

To take this competitive, written exam, individuals must be at least 18 years of age and in good physical and mental health.

Conviction for a felony automatically disqualifies anyone from becoming an Officer. Misdemeanor convictions are reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine eligibility.

Additionally, at the time of appointment, candidates must be U.S. citizens, at least 21 years old, New York state residents and possess either a high school diploma or GED.

To qualify for consideration to become an Officer, applicants must score at least 70 on the written exam, results of which are ranked according to score. Applicants then undergo a background check and must qualify medically, physically, and psychologically before being appointed to the DOCS's Training Academy in Albany for a comprehensive eight-week training program followed by three weeks of on-the-job training.

Those completing the training and probationary programs earn 16 college credits toward a post-secondary degree. They can then qualify to take exams for the positions of sergeant, lieutenant and then captain, before being considered for an appointment as a deputy superintendent or superintendent. 



A recruit's first view of DOCS.