

# DOCS TODAY

September 2004

New York State Department of Correctional Services

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## Pataki honors CO awarded Purple Heart



**U.S. Rep. John E. Sweeney watches as Governor Pataki congratulates CO Chris Paiser during a ceremony in which the Franklin Officer received the Purple Heart. As a member of the Army National Guard, CO Paiser was seriously injured on June 16 during a mortar attack on his camp. With the support and prayers of the DOCS community, he is undergoing treatment in hopes of saving his eyesight.**

# Predator's decision to misbehave led to loss of 4 years of 'good time'

## *Pataki laws would have lengthened term, preventing 7 Onondaga County murders*

**A** recent case in Onondaga County shows how important our Time Allowance Committees can be in denying "good time" to bad inmates.

The same case shows that, despite our best efforts, Governor Pataki's sentencing reforms are also crucial in protecting the public by keeping violent predators behind bars.

The Syracuse case involves an inmate who was released earlier this year after he was forced to serve each and every day of the 12-year prison sentence for sodomy imposed upon him in Onondaga County Court.

He would still be imprisoned today if that court could have imprisoned him in 1992 under sentencing reforms like those passed by Governor Pataki since he took office in 1995.

Then, this violent predator would not have been on the streets of Syracuse to allegedly commit seven gruesome murders since his release from Auburn in January.

His case is a primer on how the length of an inmate's sentence is affected by both Time Allowance Committee and Board of Parole decisions.

It is also an example of how prison terms are affected by Governor Pataki's sentencing reforms.

### **A three-time loser**

This violent predator is a three-time loser when it comes to the serious felonies he committed in Onondaga County.

He first entered prison in 1979 and served four years of a 2 to 6-year sentence for the attempted

rape of a 25-year-old female who is both deaf and mute.

Released in 1983, he returned to prison in 1984. This time, it was to serve a 3½ to 7-year sentence for burglary. He had entered a residence and beat a 66-year-old female with a hammer. He was released from prison in 1991.

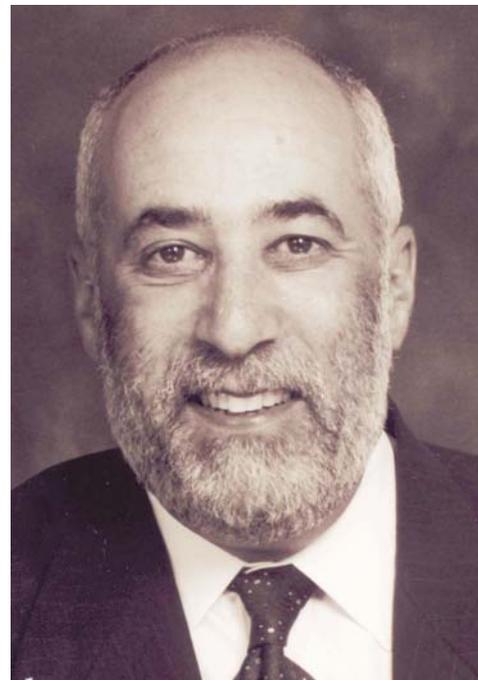
During each of these incarcerations, the Board of Parole refused to grant him discretionary release, forcing him to serve more time on each sentence.

But this offender was calculating enough to follow prison rules during both those incarcerations. That prevented us from revoking "good time" and lengthening his sentences even more.

He entered state prison for a third time on March 27, 1992. He faced a 6 to 12-year sentence handed down in Onondaga County for sodomizing a 16-year-old girl whom he brazenly claimed "assaulted me first." That crime occurred while he still had 189 days remaining on parole for his burglary conviction. Added on to his new maximum sentence of 12 years, his aggregate maximum sentence became 12-1/2 years.

Three dates would now control this inmate's future:

- July 12, 1997, when he would complete his minimum sentence of six years and become eligible for discretionary release by the Board of Parole.
- Nov. 18, 1999, when he would complete two-thirds of his sentence and become eligible for conditional release.
- Jan. 21, 2004, when he would complete his aggregate maximum sentence, and the law would require his release.



**Commissioner Goord**

### ***This month's articles***

- ***CO comes home from Iraq a wounded hero: Page 4.***
- ***Governor dedicates Purple Heart memorial: Page 5.***
- ***Staff reassignments begin filling vacancies: Page 6.***
- ***Nearly 26,000 inmates received in 2003: Page 8.***
- ***Reception centers a response to growth: Page 10.***
- ***'Air Rikers' flew inmates to North Country: Page 11.***
- ***Bedford meets reception need for women: Page 12.***
- ***Staff promotions, retirements and deaths: Page 13.***
- ***Jack Alexander helped create reception: Page 16.***

*Continued on facing page*

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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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### Poor institutional record leads to more prison time

When he came up for discretionary parole in July 1997, the Board of Parole denied him release. It did so again when he appeared for subsequent review in July 1999, August 2001 and August 2003.

This inmate had a poor disciplinary record. Most of his 16 tier system disciplines and incidents were of a nature that, individually, did not rise to a felony level that would allow his criminal prosecution. Other misconduct failed to result in prosecution because his inmate victims refused to testify against him.

That misconduct is exactly why, upon completion of two-thirds of his sentence, he was denied conditional release. The law says such release is to be conditional, based upon the inmate's overall prison behavior and adjustment.

That same provision of law last year allowed us to take away "good time" for misbehavior in 14 percent of the 10,568 Time Allowance Committee reviews of inmate conduct. We decided this inmate's overall conduct had been so poor in prison that we took away every day of his "good time." That required him to serve an additional four years, two months and three days in prison.

So while his misconduct in prison did not rise to the level of criminal prosecution, it was sufficient to deny him release for more than 50 months: longer than the minimum sentence now being served by 26 percent of the approximately 64,500 inmates in state prison today.

The loss of good time ran through Jan. 21, 2004, the expiration of his aggregate maximum sentence set by statute. Under the law at the time of his conviction, he had to be released on that date. Because he served his full sentence, he also had to be released without any post-incarceration supervision.

But he could have served even more time.

Governor Pataki's sentencing reforms since 1995 have, among other things, accomplished these three major goals:

- Lengthening the sentences imposed upon violent offenders.
- Imposing "truth in sentencing" by replacing "minimum/maximum" sentencing ranges with a "flat" term that told the public how many years the offender had to serve.
- Mandating periods of post-release supervision and monitoring extending beyond the maximum expiration of sentence for violent offenders.

Had such reforms been in place when this offender was sentenced in 1992, it is most likely that this three-time felon would have received a "flat" sentence of at least 16 years. He would be eligible for a maximum 15 percent of "good time" off that sentence, designed to protect staff by offering inmates the possibility of early release if they behave.

He would have to serve every day of 85 percent of that hypothetical, 16-year sentence before being considered for release.

That would have kept him behind bars at least through March 2005. If he lost all good time under this scenario, arguably a foregone conclusion given his misconduct, he would have been imprisoned through July 2007.

After that, he would still have been subject to five years of close post-release supervision and monitoring, through July 2012. Completing that supervision without an arrest would have been virtually impossible for this offender. He was actually convicted, let alone simply arrested, for committing new felonies hardly one year after each of his two prior releases from prison.

## **This predator would still be imprisoned today if the court could have imprisoned him in 1992 under sentencing reforms like those passed by Governor Pataki since he took office in 1995.**

Under Governor Pataki's other reforms, he increased prison terms for offenders who could be adjudicated as persistent violent felony offenders - such as this felon. Pataki raised the minimum sentence for such predators

from 10 to 20 years in prison. Both the old and new laws carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

These reforms have contributed to the fact that, since Governor Pataki took office:

- The average prison time actually served by all violent felons increased by 57 percent, from 47 months in 1995 to 73 months in 2003.
- Time served for second-degree murder, for example, rose an average of 38 percent over the same period, from 202 months to 278 months.
- Similarly, time served for first-degree robbery increased by 77 percent, from 52 to 92 months.

While only half the prison population was serving sentences for violent crimes when Governor Pataki took office, his policies have driven that up to more than 56 percent.

I believe the Governor's policies have contributed greatly to the 50 percent decline in violent crime we've seen across New York state since he took office.

I know that had his sentencing reforms been in place in 1992, this offender would not have been on the streets of Syracuse to allegedly commit these horrific crimes in 2004. 

## 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](http://www.state.ny.us)

Commissioner Goord: [www.docs.state.ny.us](http://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. 

# War wound recovery uncertain for Franklin's Purple Heart hero

## *Prognosis uncertain for Officer Paiser, who has support, prayers of DOCS family*

Only time will tell if Franklin CO Chris Paiser can return to the career he has always wanted. But the DOCS community will be with him every step of the way.

A 16-year veteran of and sergeant in the New York Army National Guard, Officer Paiser was activated last October and deployed to Iraq in February with his unit, Company B of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry, from Morrisonville.

On June 16, during a mortar attack on Camp Anaconda, a piece of shrapnel entered his right eye and lodged behind his left eye. The result was complete loss of vision in his right eye and very limited vision in his left.

He was presented with the Purple Heart during an August 6 ceremony dedicating the New York State Purple Heart Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. (See story on facing page.)

A total of 170 DOCS employees were on active duty last month, with 104 in the National Guard and 66 in the Reserves.

Officer Paiser is being treated by medical staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. It is too soon to know the final outcome; the early prognosis was not encouraging. He said he plans to attend a school in Connecticut to learn Braille, computer programs for the blind and basic living skills.

When word of CO Paiser's injuries reached DOCS facilities in the North Country the reaction was quick. Volunteers swung into action, contacted his family, started raising money and organized their labor to complete a project the officer had been working on when he was called to military duty – renovating his home to make more room for his wife Mary and their four children, ages 3 to 8.

As Clinton Sgt. Tony Pavone, one of the volunteers, described the situation, "When Chris left he had to drop his hammer and pick up his gun."

The Paiser Family Injured Soldier Fund was established to accept contributions at Dannemora Federal Credit Union, which has a matching program for organizations donating to soldiers.

A local lumber dealer sold building materials to the team at a reduced price. Car washes in the community and raffles in facilities were held. Local businesses made donations. CO Paiser was made a dignitary in a Fourth of July parade.

Fellow employees from Franklin, Clinton, Chateaugay, Altona and McGregor supported the project in various ways.

Some 50 volunteers, including officers, civilian staff and even a couple of retirees, donated their time and skill to complete the home improvements.

"The majority of the guys don't even know Chris," said Sgt. Pavone.

But he is one of them. The sergeant had never worked with CO Paiser, but did work with his father, former Clinton CO Leland Paiser who retired three years ago after more than 30 years with DOCS.



CO Paiser with his wife, Mary.

The Paiser family's roots are deep in service to the Department.

In addition to Chris's father, his late grandparents Tom and Mary Douglas were both DOCS employees who began their careers at the old Matteawan State Hospital in the 1950s. She retired in 1974; he was a lieutenant working in Albany when he died in 1978.

Chris's step-grandfather, the late Leon Vincent, began his DOCS career as a guard at Great Meadow in 1937 and retired as superintendent of Green Haven in 1975.

Two brothers-in-law are COs, Dave Conway at Franklin and Brian Lacroix at Altona.

"Chris always thought it was the family business," said his mother Nancy Paiser. "He always wanted to be an officer. He was happy when he got the appointment."

"He'd love to go back to work," she added.

Her son agrees on both points. "I just wanted to work with my dad," he said. And if his vision could improve enough, he "most definitely" would resume his career with the Department.

As it happened, father and son never had the opportunity to serve together. Chris, who joined DOCS in 1996, worked at Sing Sing, Green Haven and Coxsackie before his permanent assignment to Franklin in 1999. The elder Paiser was at Clinton during those years.

Leland Paiser voiced gratitude for the way DOCS people and the community at large have supported Chris and his family, but was not really surprised. "Everybody has kind of chipped in," he said. "I think up here (Plattsburgh) if there's a crisis everybody helps out."

CO Paiser said what he likes best about working with DOCS are his colleagues.

"The people I work with are great. Everybody takes care of everybody. They prove that over and over again," he said. "I can never thank the corrections family enough for everything they've done." 

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**CO Paiser: "I can never thank the corrections family enough for everything they've done."**

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## Governor dedicates Purple Heart memorial to heroes in Albany

### *Honoring bravest of New York's soldiers, presents medals to those hurt in 2 wars*

Governor Pataki was joined by members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and a host of other officials on August 6 at a dedication ceremony for the New York State Purple Heart Memorial at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

"The New York Purple Heart Memorial is a fitting tribute to the thousands of New Yorkers who have selflessly served our state and nation and risked their lives, so that we may live in freedom," Governor Pataki said. "The memorial will serve as a powerful reminder for visitors today and for future generations of the tremendous personal courage and sacrifices so many New Yorkers have made to defend our freedom and protect us from threats of terror.

"Today we honor four local heroes with the Purple Heart distinction – men who fought bravely to protect our freedom and to liberate the people of Iraq from years of oppression. Their courage, their sacrifice and their unwavering commitment to the principles of democracy and freedom can never be fully repaid, but will never be forgotten."

U.S. Rep. John E. Sweeney said, "It is a great honor to be here today. I'm proud to be here as we pay tribute to these incredibly brave young men who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms. New York, and America, owes each of them a tremendous debt of gratitude."

State Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said, "American men and women have fought and died in defense of freedom around the world. The Purple Heart is a special recognition of the almost two million Americans who were wounded or killed in battle. The New York State Purple Heart Memorial is a proud recognition and honor for those Americans who went above and beyond the call of duty for their country."

Senator William J. Larkin said, "This permanent monument will honor the nearly two million Americans whose sacrifices have earned them the Purple Heart medal. Now more than ever, it is important to recognize the men and women in our armed forces who were wounded in battle for this country, and those who continue to serve so faithfully today. This monument will be a reminder of the costs of freedom, and it will be a fitting tribute to our veterans..."

Franklin CO Christopher M. Paiser was among the four soldiers from the New York National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment who were wounded while deployed in Iraq.

The others receiving Purple Hearts during the ceremony were Staff Sergeant Troy Mechanick of Glens Falls; Sergeant James D. MacDonald, of Hannibal, and Specialist Timothy Durie, of Ballston Spa were wounded during an enemy attack on their convoy. The medals were presented by Maj. Gen. Thomas P. Maguire, Adjutant General of New York, and 27th Brigade Commander Col. Daniel T. Maney.

The new, red granite memorial depicts the Purple Heart and was donated to the state by the National Military Order of the Purple Heart to honor all recipients of that prestigious medal.

Al Silvano, National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart said, "Through the dedication of these State memorials, our nation takes pause to honor not only those who bore the brunt of battle—those who gave all or some in the defense of our freedoms and security—but through this issuance our government honors all who served in our Armed Services, and their families, who have paid the price in terms of

sacrifice and support of American ideals. It is through those who serve that others can go on to become artists, scientists, engineers or captains of industry, in an environment that is not only free, but secure as well."

The memorial is inscribed with the words, "My stone is red for the blood they shed. The medal I bear is my Country's way to show they care. If I could be seen by all mankind maybe peace will come in my lifetime."

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first American award made available to the common soldier. General George Washington initially created what he then called a "Badge of Military Merit" on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War. It is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously awarded to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Additionally, a National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is being planned for construction in New York at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site to honor the nearly two million Americans, nationwide, who have received a Purple Heart Medal. While it is unknown how many residents of New York State have received a Purple Heart, more than 123,000 have been eligible since the beginning of World War II. 



**Engraved stone is the centerpiece of the memorial.**

# Commissioner's initiatives fill 317 CO vacancies at 49 prisons

## Goal is to equalize remaining vacancies, attempting to save 3 targeted facilities

**F**orty-nine prisons will fill 317 officer vacancies this month after Commissioner Goord gave the green light on August 30 to resume security transfers to fill critical vacancies around the state.

That will spread the remaining vacancies equitably around the system, as new officers are trained to bring the security work force up to its assigned strength.

Among the 49 prisons, the transfers will include:

- At the maximum-security Coxsackie and Clinton prisons, each will see 17 vacancies filled, while Auburn fills 13, Five Points and Attica each fill 10, Elmira fills nine vacancies and Southport, eight.
- Among medium-security prisons, Bare Hill, Franklin and Greene will each fill 15 vacancies, Albion 13, Queensboro 12, 11 at Mohawk and Wyoming, while 10 vacancies each will be filled at Adirondack, Cayuga, Washington, Willard.

Before these transfers occurred, Sing Sing had 39 excess officers, for example, while Willard was under by 21. In Oneida County, Mohawk was under by 19 officers and Mid-State by six – but nearby Marcy had 25 excess officers.

Among these first transfers are to fill some of the 17 vacancies at Franklin and 16 at Bare Hill – with many of the incoming officers from among those who were in excess temporary positions across the Adirondacks in the Watertown hub.

The infusions of COs will not fill all the vacancies across the state. But they will substantially reduce the number of vacancies remaining to be filled in the future.

### Matching officers with permanent positions

With 19,055 officers, the Department is 307 officers below its authorized strength.

But with 195 officers choosing not to leave excess temporary positions at six prisons, the total number of vacant permanent posts around the system rose to 503 last month.

Vacancies grew after the Commissioner froze transfers into 36 prisons targeted to reduce population and staff since a 9 percent decline in the inmate population began in 2000.

The freeze was designed to create attrition among the temporary positions established over the years at those 36 prisons as they added temporary beds to accommodate the spiraling in-

mate population from the mid-1980s through the late 1990s.

The Commissioner hoped the freeze would attrit staff from those temporary positions as inmate beds were vacated, avoiding the need to layoff staff as the inmate population declined.

Generally, that plan worked.

A total of 1,144 officer positions were attrited from the system at the targeted facilities since 2000. That left only 195 COs in excess positions statewide last month, concentrated at six prisons: Cape Vincent, Collins, Marcy, Orleans, Riverview and Watertown.

As the state's 2004-05 budget picture now comes into clearer focus, Commissioner Goord said there is one overriding concern: "Vacancies in permanent positions present a potential security risk and endanger all of our employees, as well as the inmate population. They must be addressed now."

Commissioner Goord's plan to address that situation begins this month by:

- Allowing 173 COs to voluntarily move from permanent positions into vacant permanent positions.
- Requiring 111 COs in excess temporary positions to choose less-desirable permanent vacancies, rather than forcing their return to their permanent "hold" items.
- Reassigning 84 COs in excess temporary positions back to their permanent "holds:" they refused to transfer from excess temporary positions or had insufficient seniority to reach their choice facilities. Of them, 51 will be excess at their new facilities, available for subsequent transfer.

The first two groups received transfer orders on August 31 and report September 8. The third group received orders on September 1 and report September 9. Because of the number of transfers, all were given more than the few days' advance notice that individual officers or smaller groups are usually given.

Once those moves are complete this month, 49 prisons will see 317 critical, uniformed vacancies filled. That will reduce the number of vacancies in permanent positions around the system from last month's 503 down to 186.

Upcoming rounds of uniformed transfers will allow the filling of the remaining critical officer vacancies. The five sergeants in excess positions will also be transferring to new positions. Civilians in excess titles are also being identified and their options are being evaluated as well.

Most of the upcoming officer transfers to fill the remaining 186 vacancies will require backfilling by the pool of roughly



Albany Clerk Chad Powell (seated) and Associate Personnel Administrator William McGuire go over staff reassignments.

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200 officer recruits who graduated from six Training Academy sessions since the April 1 start of this fiscal year.

Three Officer recruit classes are now being trained at the Albany Academy. Another eight classes, starting with the customary 76 recruits, are scheduled to enter the Academy before the March 31, 2005, end of the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Goord said, "It is abundantly clear that this is a complex set of circumstances. We are attempting to coordinate the number and order of staff transfers in order to have a minimum negative impact on our existing staff. At the same time, we are scheduling recruit classes to meet our new needs as they arise."

Overall, the result of these moves will be to fill critical vacancies by allowing as many staff as possible to move to facilities of their choice – which generally means closer to home.

"I call some of these transfers 'reluctant' for a reason," Commissioner Goord said. "Since we first announced the 'down-sizing' of the prison population four years ago, I have repeatedly urged staff in excess temporary positions to transfer to permanent positions. I did that because I am reluctant to require any employee to transfer."

Most affected employees listened. At Cayuga, for example, 123 officers in excess temporary positions moved, many of them to the Five Points prison in neighboring Seneca County.

"But there are 195 staff remaining in excess temporary positions at six targeted facilities who now have to move," Commissioner Goord said, "however reluctantly on their part."

Commissioner Goord noted that his plan, necessitating 173 voluntary as well as 195 "reluctant" transfers, was endorsed in a July 8 letter to him from NYSOPBA officials.

Thus, however reluctant their moves might be for some of the affected staff, they will be welcomed with open arms by their co-workers in filling 317 vacancies and maintaining security at 49 prisons around the state.

### **Savings to determine status of three prisons**

One of the benefits of filling those vacancies is that they will no longer have to be covered on an overtime basis.

Such savings become more important this year than ever.

That's because the Department's ability to save extra dollars this year may be directly related to the future of Camp Pharsalia, Fulton work release prison and the minimum-security camp adjacent to Mt. McGregor.

That's because all three house minimum-security inmates. From 1994-2003, the number of such inmates dropped by 40 percent, from 9,759 to 5,852, reducing the need for such space.

At Commissioner Goord's request, the Governor's Executive Budget for this fiscal year did not include funding for them. It was the Commissioner's intention to consolidate inmates in the remaining minimum-security facilities and transfer staff in accordance with their collective bargaining rights.

He delayed transferring staff in excess positions, and the closing of the three prisons, awaiting action on the state budget.

When the Legislature passed its budget bills last month, it

added \$12 million to operate the three prisons through the March 31, 2005, end of this fiscal year, as well as \$300,000 to operate the 12-bed Watertown Special Housing Unit which the Commissioner had also recommended be closed.

Governor Pataki then vetoed those \$12.3 million in add-ons, as well as a Legislative add-on of \$7 million to add 216 officers.

It remains to be seen whether or not the Legislature will vote to override the vetoes. Any such vote must take place by midnight on December 31st, when the current terms end for members of both the Senate and the Assembly.

Commissioner Goord had recommended the Governor veto the total of \$19.3 million in add-ons.

"Several members of the Legislature – strong supporters and friends of this Department – then requested that the Governor and I look for ways to maintain these prisons. If we can find the savings to operate these facilities, we will spread inmate vacancies among these and the other minimum-security prisons.

"If we can accomplish this, it will occur through the hard work, support and partnership between the Governor and Senators Joe Bruno, Tom Libous, Jim Seward, Jim Wright and Hugh Farley. The Governor and I agree that they have once again been outstanding advocates for their constituents."

Commissioner Goord noted that there were 856 fewer inmates on July 31 than the 65,370 projected for that date when the Executive Budget was prepared in December. That's on top of the 6,341 inmate reduction in population that occurred between December 1999-December 2003.

That 856 inmate decline, should it continue through the fiscal year, would result in an annualized savings of \$4 million in non-personal service costs.

That, Commissioner Goord advised the Governor, represented nearly one-third of the \$12.3 million add-on.

Commissioner Goord said, "We do not need to tap the taxpayer for that money: not if the inmate reduction number holds up, not if we realize a substantial reduction in overtime due to the filling of vacancies and not if we can realize other economies while maintaining safety and security.

"I am hopeful that we can realize those economies. That would allow us to maintain all three prisons and the Watertown SHU without hitting the taxpayer up for more money."

Commissioner Goord recommended vetoing the additional officers for a simple reason: "We won't have the space in the Academy to train them in this fiscal year. We already have a record 17 classes scheduled to be trained this fiscal year."

While the Department moves ahead with the training of new officers, it is meeting its top priority: providing its employees with a safe working environment.

The latest statistics from *The Corrections Yearbook*<sup>TM</sup> shows that, in 2002, New York had 65,197 inmates and 19,007 COs.

That's a far richer staffing level than in California, where the *Yearbook* reported 150,942 inmates and 19,294 officers, or in Texas, with 129,846 inmates and 22,495 officers.

While Florida's system is closer to New York's with 68,408 inmates, it had 10,356 officers, the *Yearbook* reported. 

## Reception process balances prison security and inmate programs

### **26,000 inmates entered system last year; intake begins planning their path home;**

Nearly 26,000 “state ready” inmates entered the state prison system last year through the four reception and classification centers – more than the population of most up-state villages and small cities.

“State readies” are those offenders sentenced to state prison for whom all paperwork is done on the county level and DOCS has been informed, in writing, that they are ready for transport to a state prison.

All the incoming inmates went through the same admission process – a process that nearly a quarter-century of experience has shown to be an effective tool for managing the system safely while best meeting the needs of inmates.

The classification process serves three essential functions:

- Assessing an inmate’s history and physical condition for placement in a facility that meets security, medical and mental health needs.
- Identifying factors that contributed to his criminal activities so programs can be recommended that address the root causes of the behavior.
- Providing an orientation program in which inmates learn about the Department and what is expected of them while in custody.

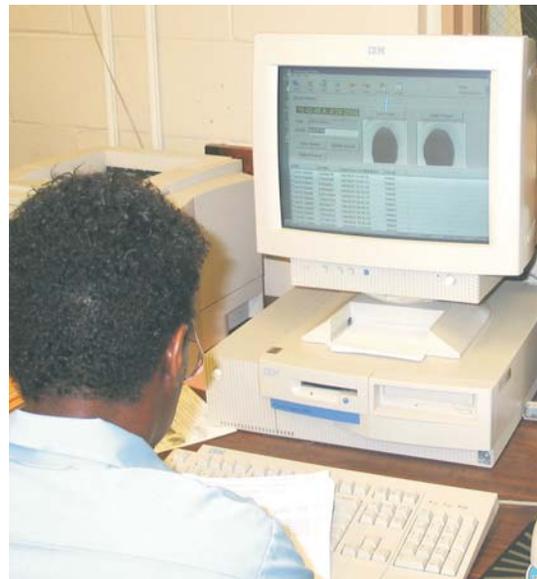


**Clinton CO Charles Durkin fingerprints a new inmate to confirm his identity.**

Last year the Downstate and Ulster reception centers processed nearly 75 percent of all male admissions – 9,559 at Downstate and 9,697 at Ulster. Elmira handles reception and classification for the central and western parts of the state and processed 4,835 male admissions last year. Bedford Hills, the sole reception center for women, handled 1,643 admissions.

Clinton serves as a temporary reception center for inmates from the northern part of the state before they are transferred to Downstate for classification. Wende performs the same function before inmates are sent to Elmira.

To manage the volume of inmates coming from New York City, DOCS staff have been permanently stationed at Rikers Island since 1991. There, working with the New York City Department of Correction, they screen the documents of “state readies” from the city’s five boroughs and determine whether they should be sent to Downstate for maximum security placement or Ulster for medium- and minimum-security placement, pending final classification.



**Ulster staff check fingerprints taken from incoming inmate against data base.**

Inmates with mental health or medical problems are also sent to Downstate because it can provide the services they will need. In

addition, Downstate receives “extended classification” inmates – those prisoners who will require more than the normal period of evaluation before they can be assigned to a facility.

For the 19 counties closest to Downstate which compose its catchment area, facility pre-screening staff review an inmate’s pertinent documents and advise the counties where to deliver their prisoners who are ready to be admitted to DOCS.

A regimen of discipline and order greets the new inmates from the moment they arrive at a reception center.

Rikers inmates are taken off the bus by New York City jail officers who then remove inmates’ waist chains. Dozens of New York City inmates can enter the reception center together, handcuffed in pairs with leg irons attached. There are far fewer inmates coming in from other counties, and therefore they are generally not chained at the waist.

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The inmates are led to a holding area where they are pat frisked and their hands are examined. Their belts and shoes are removed and examined. The handcuffs and leg chains are then taken off and the inmates are given an opportunity to surrender any contraband without penalty.

Before the new inmates are accepted into DOCS custody their commitment papers are scrutinized by administrative staff, their fingerprints are read by a DigiScan machine and relayed electronically to the Division of Criminal Justice Services in Albany for instant verification of identity. Inmates are also examined by medical staff for unreported injuries or other medical problems.

If there are no discrepancies, in about an hour receipts are signed and the inmates are now in DOCS custody. The deputies can return to their home counties and the New York City COs head back south to prepare for the next day's run.

By design, the intake process is methodical and businesslike. Commands are issued in a stern voice, but not shouted.

Reception and classification once averaged 28 days, but is now completed for most inmates in five days. Sticking to a strict schedule is essential to the process.

The precise order of events varies among the reception centers, but the content is the same.

On the day of their arrival inmates are showered using a lice shampoo and strip frisked in private. They undergo body cavity screening in the BOSS chair. Their fingernails are cut if necessary. Cadre barbers shave the heads of inmates, except for women and inmates with religious exemptions.

All inmates are given a set of prison clothing, fingerprinted and photographed for identification cards, and issued their Department Identification Numbers (DINs) .

After preliminary intake on the day they enter DOCS custody, over the next four days the new inmates are examined by medical and mental health staff, tested by educational staff and interviewed by counselors to develop as complete a portrait as possible of the inmate's history, background, needs and anticipated adjustment to confinement.

The process includes a complete medical workup, starting the morning after arrival, before breakfast, with blood work. Inmates are given a comprehensive health appraisal that includes:

- A complete medical history and physical exam including gynecological and obstetrical history with breast and pelvic exam for females and prostate exams for men 50 and older;
- Tuberculosis testing;
- Blood work and urinalysis (and for females, pregnancy test, pap test and culture when clinically necessary, and baseline mammogram beginning at age 40);
- Hepatitis B profile to establish immunity status and assess for carrier status;
- Hepatitis C antibodies;



**Downstate officers monitor incoming inmates in bullpen.**

- HIV testing offered if indicated;
- Chest x-ray;
- An electrocardiogram for inmates 40 or older, or when clinically indicated;
- Vision and hearing testing;
- Immunizations (diphtheria-tetanus booster, measles-mumps-rubella, and pneumonia vaccine), depending on the age of the inmate and time since previous known immunizations;
- Dental examination;
- Mental health appraisal by staff from the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH). It maintains a full-time forensic diagnostic unit at Downstate.
- DNA samples are collected from inmates whose crimes require them.

Inmates are given a full set of state-issue clothing and a copy of the booklet that explains the standards of behavior required of inmates, including the disciplinary procedures and penalties for misconduct.

During the reception process inmates are tested for IQ, math and reading levels, with the results analyzed to help reach programming recommendations.

They are evaluated for alcohol and substance abuse training and for aggression replacement therapy.

They are put through orientation sessions on what will be expected of them, and what they can expect, while in DOCS custody – such as disciplinary and rulebook instruction, telephone and visiting procedures, inmate accounts, the inmate grievance resolution committee and the earned eligibility program.

They are interviewed by counselors who use the security classification scoring guidelines that measure the likely behavior risk they pose while in DOCS custody and the potential risk to the community if they managed to escape custody.

*Continued on page 15*

# State's need for more capacity grounded in new facilities ...

**T**he Downstate and Ulster reception centers were established as part of the Department's response to the rapid growth in the inmate population through the 1980s and 1990s.

Downstate opened in 1979 as a separation center to process inmates on their way out of DOCS and back to their communities. The inmate population then stood at 20,885. The population had more than tripled in the next 20 years, peaking at 71,538 in December 1999.

New facilities, programs and procedures, together with increasing numbers of security and civilian staff, allowed DOCS to meet the challenges of such dramatic growth.

Downstate's role as a separation center lasted less than a year. Inmates were coming into the system faster than they were leaving, so it was converted in 1980 to its originally planned use as a reception center and began processing inmates entering the system, rather than those leaving its custody.

Meanwhile, again driven by the numbers and the need to boost the efficiency of the reception process, changes were in the works for Ulster.

Originally conceived as a maximum-security prison adjacent to the maximum-security Eastern, then redesigned into a medium security facility, Ulster was ultimately retrofitted during construction to become a reception center for medium- and minimum-security inmates.

Ulster opened in that role in October 1990, allowing Downstate to reduce its traffic by concentrating on maximum-security receptions.

The state's first formal classification center opened in 1945 on the grounds of the Elmira Reformatory. In 1970 it was administratively joined to the main facility, and the complex was renamed the Elmira Correctional and Reception Center. In keeping with its history of concentrating on younger offenders, Elmira received male inmates ages 16 through 20 from throughout the state.

At the time Elmira was dealing with younger offenders, sentencing courts sent males age 21 and older to Attica, Sing Sing or Clinton, which were the designated receiving prisons within their regional catchment areas. Females of all ages and from all parts of the state were sent to Bedford Hills.

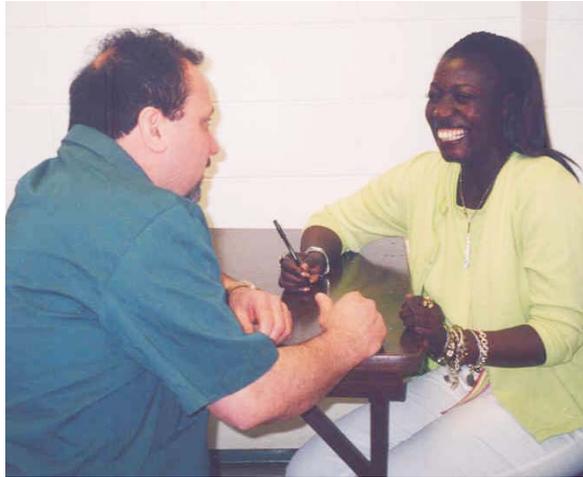
When more space became available in 1975 for classification at Clinton, the Attica and Sing Sing classification units were consolidated there. By then, construction had begun at Downstate, the first maximum-security prison opened in the state since Green Haven in 1949.

The first 20 cadre inmates arrived at Downstate on Feb. 20, 1979 and separation inmates began to arrive in April. The separa-

tion program quickly fell victim to demographics. More prisoners were entering than leaving, the classification unit. Workload had outpaced Clinton's ability to receive inmates. And it cost too much to transport New York City inmates 300 miles northward to Clinton for processing.

In January 1980, the separation program at Downstate was closed and some of Clinton's classification staff were relocated there. The Assessment and Program Preparation Unit (APPU) would subsequently be created in vacated space at Clinton.

New commitments began to arrive at Downstate in May, 1980. It has served ever since as a reception and classification center.



**Registered Nurse Carolyn Jordan interviews a new inmate at Wende.**

Meanwhile, with the reduction in classification activities at Clinton, a reception and classification center for central and western New York was reestablished at Attica in 1980 and operated there through 1983. In 1984, that responsibility was transferred to the new Wende prison.

When Ulster opened in 1990, reception and classification for central and western New York moved from Wende to Elmira, where it continues today for all security levels.

Since the opening of Ulster for medium- and minimum-security inmates, Downstate has served exclusively as a maximum-security facility. Between them, the two facilities process about 75 percent of all inmates entering or returning to DOCS custody.

Bedford Hills continues to process all females sentenced to state prison.

Clinton no longer serves as a classification center, but it does operate as a temporary reception center for the northern area of the state and sends inmates to Downstate for classification. Wende performs a similar function with inmates who are headed to Elmira for classification.

To improve the efficiency of the reception and classification process the Department has maintained a permanent pre-screening operation at Rikers Island since 1991. There a team of counselors, nurses and support staff examines the legal and medical records of incoming male inmates and assigns them a preliminary classification that determines whether they go to Downstate or Ulster.

The Rikers Island unit works closely with the New York City Department of Correction to manage the transfer of inmates from the city's custody to the state's. The pre-screening makes it possible to send the vast majority of inmates to the appropriate reception center at the outset.

At the same time it allows staff to identify prisoners with special medical, mental health, security or other circumstances and alert the reception centers before the inmates arrive. 

## ... New York City's space need includes use of airplanes

The Department's pre-classification unit was established in New York City about the same time as "Air Rikers" took flight in 1988.

That was when DOCS built and operated the Riverview and Cape Vincent prisons to house short-term city prisoners flown there by the New York City Department of Correction to relieve overcrowding in the city's jails.

In the late 1980s the city, like the state, was trying to keep pace with rapid growth in its prisoner population. When a plan to build detention centers on Staten Island and the other boroughs fell victim to community opposition, the city turned to construction of another 800-bed facility at Rikers on the East River.

That long-term solution, however, did not solve the immediate problem of not enough space.

The city approached the state in 1987. DOCS by then had established a record of success in building and running new facilities upstate, and was already looking at properties in Jefferson County near Lake Ontario and in St. Lawrence County along the St. Lawrence River.

An agreement was reached in which the Department would build two prisons – Cape Vincent and Riverview – with the city paying the building and operating costs and the state providing the personnel to run them. Legislation authorizing the operation of "alternate correctional facilities" was adopted.

Cape Vincent opened August 30, 1988; Riverview opened a week later. Each would hold 742 men, legally in the custody of the New York City Department of Correction, serving misdemeanor jail sentences of one year or less.

The city inmates were bused to LaGuardia Airport for the 300-mile daily flight on "Air Rikers" to Watertown, where buses would transport them the final 20 miles to Cape Vincent or 60 miles to Riverview in Ogdensburg.

The concept of sending exclusively city inmates to rural, up-state prisons was new. Making the arrangement work smoothly was important not only for institutional operations, but to demonstrate to the surrounding communities that the innovative plan was safe and secure.

Working with "a handful of borrowed staff," James Walsh was the first manager of the DOCS unit created on Rikers in 1988 to screen the city prisoners headed north. Now superintendent at Sullivan, he was assistant deputy superintendent at Rikers until transferring to Ulster in 1990 to use his expertise to help prepare its opening as a reception and classification center.

DOCS staff examined commitment papers, probation reports, behavioral reports and medical records of the city inmates, even though none of the prisoners faced long sentences.



New York City COs escort inmates off an airplane in Watertown.

"We wanted to send guys up there who were not problems. Generally we tried to get the best inmates," Mr. Walsh recalled. "The last thing the Commissioner (the late Thomas A. Coughlin III) wanted was for this to go wrong."

Working directly with staff from the city's corrections department, on the city's turf, was also a new concept – and not an easy task.

"It was probably the most challenging thing I ever did in the Department," he said.

The experience and success of the Rikers screening unit for New York City inmates led to the establishment of a permanent unit to screen state-readies in 1991 once Ulster was functioning as a medium-security reception center. As Mr. Walsh put it, "There wasn't a lot we had to reinvent."

He said the initial wariness between state and city corrections staff was based upon the unique working environment, rather than any past difficulties. The program, therefore, soon

gave way to a solid, productive relationship. "It was a mutually beneficial arrangement. It helped to have state people in the city jails," he said.

"Air Rikers" went out of business after the city's jail overcrowding problem faded and Riverview became a state prison in 1992 and Cape Vincent in 1993.

To close the book on "Air Rikers," the state this spring declared surplus a 40-foot by 60-foot Butler building constructed at Watertown International Airport for use as a prisoner reception facility. It was transferred to the City of Watertown, owner of the airport.

Jim Purdy is the current assistant deputy superintendent at Rikers. The pre-classification unit, when fully staffed, numbers 19 and includes counselors, nurses and a nurse administrator, an inmate records coordinator, clerks and a keyboard specialist.

Working from legal, court and medical records, they make the initial judgment whether an inmate is to be sent to Downstate (maximum-security) or Ulster (medium- or minimum-security) for reception and classification. Staff work in coordination with the city Department of Correction's custody management personnel.

Some decisions are automatic. For instance, high profile inmates, those with serious mental health or medical needs, and prisoners with sentences longer than six years are sent to Downstate. And all women are sent to Bedford Hills, the only reception center for females.

Mr. Purdy, like Mr. Walsh, said the state and city corrections professionals work closely and well together.

"Over the years it's evolved into a fantastic working relationship," he said. "Everything goes a lot smoother when it's all done with a common goal." 

# Differences for male, female reception more than what meets the eye

**W**hile all new inmates go through the same five-day reception and classification process, two notable differences distinguish female from male prisoners.

That's apart from their obviously different medical requirements, and the fact that women's heads are not shaved.

For males, a combination of public risk and institutional risk scores is used to determine security classification.

For females, it's different. Only the public risk score is calculated. And for females, a recognition of the "battered wife syndrome" – although not applied specifically to spouses – can deduct points from the final score that generates a security classification recommendation.

Rich Sprance, senior classification counselor at Bedford Hills, where all female inmates enter the DOCS system, said there is not enough statistical information available to make an institutional risk score meaningful.

And since some female inmates are sentenced for crimes that stem from domestic or partner abuse issues, the classification system recognizes their victim status in scoring them for security purposes.

"Within the public risk, there's an assessment that deals with the sort of 'battered wife syndrome,'" he said. "It's intended for the woman who was maybe defending herself and went too far."

The deduction in points can apply, and can influence the final scoring, where there are no prior convictions, he explained.

Apart from that distinction, the reception process is the same for both men and women, as are the problems that will need to be addressed.

Like male inmates, the female inmate population as a whole needs a full range of vocational, educational, sex offender, aggression replacement therapy, and alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs.

"A majority of them (female admissions) have some sort of drug connection, direct or indirect, even if that's not why they're here in the first place," said Mr. Sprance.

He said the reception and classification process can be confusing and intimidating for inmates, as they experience a new environment and regulations for the first time.

"Some (inmates) are really upset. Some are upset but don't show it," he related. "One inmate said to me the day she arrived here was the worst day of her life. I told her it was half-over already, and that seemed to help her understand."

But generally with time, a routine is established, inmates understand what is expected of them and what they can expect, and myths are replaced by facts.

"They find out it's not like in the movies," Mr. Sprance said.

New inmates are interviewed by a counselor on the day they arrive, and spend five days going through a comprehensive series of evaluations, exams, orientation and other procedures. The process can be confusing at first.

However, by the end of the reception week most inmates have absorbed what they have been learning since arrival. "The real information they get is when they sit down five days after arrival with a counselor for a final session," he said. That is when the inmate's future within DOCS is reviewed.

New inmates at Bedford Hills stay in dormitory housing for the five days they are going through the reception and classification process.

Once that is done, they are placed in general confinement housing for the average three weeks before they are assigned to their first permanent facility, based on their security classification, medical requirements, mental health needs, and the availability of space at appropriate facilities.

Specific rehabilitation, educational and vocational program plans will be designed in consultation with staff at the inmate's assigned facility. Playing a role in that process is the profile developed during the testing and counseling sessions through the reception process.

About 25 to 30 percent of inmates are assigned to Bedford Hills, the only maximum security facility for females. The remaining 70 to 75 percent are assigned to Albion, Bayview, Taconic (all medium security) or Beacon (minimum security), the Department's other facilities for women.

Two female-oriented program notes worth mentioning apply to inmates at Bedford Hills and Taconic

Two female-oriented program notes worth mentioning apply to inmates at Bedford Hills and Taconic

- Pregnant inmates are taken to an outside hospital for labor and delivery so their children do not have to carry the stigma of having been born in a prison.
- They offer nursery programs that allow newborns to stay with their mothers at the facility for as long as 18 months. Of course, inmates with a history of violence against children are not allowed into the nursery program. 📖



**New inmates are received at Bedford Hills.**

# Transitions

August 2004

Name	Title	Facility			
<b>Promotions</b>			Anthony Agostino . . . . .	Correction Counselor. . . . .	Greene
Deborah A. McCormick. . . . .	Stores Clerk 2 . . . . .	Adirondack	William J. Donnelly . . . . .	Stores Clerk 1 . . . . .	Hale Creek
Ronald Giambruno . . . . .	Rec Program Leader 1 . . . . .	Altona	Kelly L. Crise . . . . .	Payroll Clerk 3 . . . . .	Lakeview
William D. Brown . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Altona	Melinda S. Korzeniewski . . . . .	ASAT Counselor . . . . .	Lakeview
Johnson Eapen. . . . .	Mail & Supply Clerk . . . . .	Arthur Kill	Juanita Yonker . . . . .	ASAT Counselor . . . . .	Lakeview
Susan E. O'Connell . . . . .	Administrative Aide. . . . .	Attica	Bruce E. Olsen . . . . .	Dir of Training Academy . . . . .	Main Office
Jacky E. White . . . . .	Maintenance Supervisor 3 . . . . .	Auburn	Mary Carr . . . . .	Info Technology Assistant . . . . .	Main Office
Osteen Miles . . . . .	Clerk 2 . . . . .	Bedford Hills	Michael F. Kirtley . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Main Office
Ruth I. Lugo . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . .	Bedford Hills	Douglas B. Botsford . . . . .	Asst Dir Inmate Class & Move . . . . .	Main Office
Dean P. Quirk . . . . .	Food Administrator 2 . . . . .	Bedford Hills	Sheryl Graubard . . . . .	Inmate Grievance Prog Coord . . . . .	Main Office
Ada Perez . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Bedford Hills	Diane L. VanBuren . . . . .	Assistant Commissioner . . . . .	Main Office
Jason Soto . . . . .	Clerk 2 . . . . .	Bedford Hills	John C. Sheridan. . . . .	Assistant Commissioner . . . . .	Main Office
Renee Hoyt . . . . .	ASAT Program Asst. . . . .	Butler	Tanya Thomas . . . . .	Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . .	Main Office
Ray C. Kuhr . . . . .	Mail & Supply Clerk . . . . .	Camp Pharsalia	Reinaldo Medina . . . . .	Assistant Commissioner . . . . .	Main Office
Charlotte A. Soules. . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Cape Vincent	Diane M. Rowen . . . . .	Special Assistant . . . . .	Main Office
Ralph W. Santor, Jr. . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Chateaugay	David A. Williams. . . . .	Dir Facilities Planning & Dev. . . . .	Main Office
Lawrence F. Sears . . . . .	First Deputy Superintendent . . . . .	Clinton	Marian A. Phillips. . . . .	Secretary . . . . .	Main Office
Laurie Harrell. . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Clinton	Barbara Roark . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Main Office
Aletha M. Vanderwiell. . . . .	Info Technology Assistant . . . . .	Clinton	Odette Theriault . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Main Office
Bernadette A. Barnaby. . . . .	Stores Clerk 1 . . . . .	Clinton	Elizabeth Ballard . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Main Office
Richard Kehr . . . . .	Plant Utilities Engineer 1 . . . . .	Collins	Keith F. Dubray. . . . .	Asst Dir Spec Housing & IDP. . . . .	Main Office
James M. Darling. . . . .	Plumber & Steamfitter . . . . .	Collins	Marcia J. McCabe . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . .	Marcy
Linda Norton . . . . .	Ed Supervisor (Voc) . . . . .	Coxsackie	Suzanna C. Narolis. . . . .	Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . .	Mohawk
Kevin Gray . . . . .	Maintenance Supervisor 3 . . . . .	Eastern	Lori L. Kellogg . . . . .	Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . .	Mohawk
Elizabethann M. Jennings . . . . .	Clerk 2 . . . . .	Eastern	Leo J. Bisceglia . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Moriah
William J. Connolly . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Edgecombe	Yolanda L. Garcia . . . . .	Clerk 2 . . . . .	NYC
Cathryn Weiskopf . . . . .	Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . .	Elmira	Carl B. Hunt . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Ogdensburg
Lloyd Barnes, Jr. . . . .	Senior Radiology Tech . . . . .	Fishkill	Mary Ellen Naughton . . . . .	Stores Clerk 2 . . . . .	Oneida
David M. Ebert . . . . .	Refrigeration Mechanic. . . . .	Fishkill	Y. R. Tuzzo. . . . .	Inmate Records Coordinator 2 . . . . .	Oneida
Nicholas J. Budney. . . . .	Maintenance Assistant . . . . .	Fishkill	Wendy L. Ferrara. . . . .	Senior Mail & Supply Clerk . . . . .	Otisville
Kathleen R. Wallace . . . . .	Dental Hygienist . . . . .	Fishkill	Joseph J. Squillace. . . . .	Dep Supt for Administration . . . . .	Otisville
Michael A. Vacca. . . . .	Plant Utilities Assistant . . . . .	Fishkill	Wilda M. Rivera . . . . .	Inmate Records Coord 2 . . . . .	Queensboro
Janet O. Murphy . . . . .	Recreation Therapist . . . . .	Fishkill	Elaine McMillian . . . . .	Food Administrator 1 . . . . .	Queensboro
Ellin F. Boolukos . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . .	Fishkill	Kevin Delanoy . . . . .	Plant Utilities Engineer 3 . . . . .	Sing Sing
Veronica O'Meally . . . . .	Nurse 1. . . . .	Fishkill	Kevin A. Winship. . . . .	Dep Supt for Administration . . . . .	Sing Sing
Gretchen E. Hayward . . . . .	Commissary Clerk 3 . . . . .	Five Points	William J. Reightmyer . . . . .	Laundry Supervisor. . . . .	Summit
Catherine Wassink . . . . .	Head Account Clerk . . . . .	Five Points	Craig McMahon . . . . .	Librarian . . . . .	Taconic
Susan M. Close . . . . .	Clerk 2 . . . . .	Five Points	Juan C. Herrera . . . . .	Commissary Clerk 3 . . . . .	Taconic
Lana E. Mulvana . . . . .	Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . .	Franklin	Sharon L. Frost. . . . .	Principal Account Clerk. . . . .	Ulster
Susan Edwards . . . . .	Mail & Supply Clerk . . . . .	Franklin	Robert K. Woods. . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Upstate
Tracylynn Wood . . . . .	Info Technology Assistant . . . . .	Gouverneur	Luis Rogelio Marshall . . . . .	Superintendent . . . . .	Walkill
Tami A. Harris . . . . .	Stores Clerk 2 . . . . .	Great Meadow	Cheryl M. Kaban . . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Watertown
Jennifer L. Occhibove . . . . .	Laundry Supervisor. . . . .	Greene	Deborah B. Barber . . . . .	Nurse 1. . . . .	Wende
Marilee Latour . . . . .	Principal Account Clerk. . . . .	Greene	Elizabeth Beglinger. . . . .	Keyboard Specialist 2 . . . . .	Wyoming
			Muriel C. Matuszewski . . . . .	Stores Clerks 1. . . . .	Wyoming

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Lawrence R. Phipps . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Bayview  
 Carl A. Bashaw, Jr. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Edgecombe  
 John A. Larry . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Edgecombe  
 Marc A. Pepin . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Fulton  
 Jeffrey N. Dressler . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Queensboro  
 Lawrence S. Hammond . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Queensboro  
 Michael A. Kirkpatrick . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Sing Sing  
 Dennis McKernan . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Randall Labedz. . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Nicholas Sampsell . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Jose Soto . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Bayview  
 Robert Frey . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Bedford Hills  
 Kevin Johnson . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Bedford Hills  
 Michael DelGaizo . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Eastern  
 Donald Brokema . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Fishkill  
 Dawn DiCairano . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Fishkill  
 Edward Madison . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Fishkill  
 Sarah Clark . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Green Haven  
 Donald Nipper . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Queensboro  
 Stephen Dubrey . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Sing Sing  
 Andrew Kapa . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Taconic  
 Anthony Theriault . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Taconic

### Retirements

Merle Ricci . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Albion  
 Julie A. LaValley . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Altona  
 Sandra R. Haines . . . . . Clerk 2 . . . . . Auburn  
 Patricia L. Coventry . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . . Camp Gabriels  
 Tadeusz Rudnik . . . . . Chaplain . . . . . Camp Pharsalia  
 M. C. Raphael . . . . . Program Administrator . . . . . Pharsalia  
 Sarah Boss . . . . . Clerk 2 . . . . . Cape Vincent  
 Donna L. Pirie . . . . . Dep Supt for Administration . . . . . Cape Vincent  
 Joseph E. McCoy . . . . . Superintendent . . . . . Cayuga  
 Sam J. Franchina . . . . . Vocational Instructor 4 . . . . . Cayuga  
 Mohammad Afzal . . . . . Dentist 4 . . . . . Clinton  
 Frederick E. Talford . . . . . Motor Equipment Mechanic . . . . . Clinton  
 Kevin V. Hunt . . . . . Dep Supt Rec. & Class 3 . . . . . Downstate  
 Anita C. Stungis . . . . . Principal Stores Clerk . . . . . Eastern  
 Rosemarie Schreiber . . . . . Nurse 2 . . . . . Elmira  
 June I. Fitzgerald . . . . . Principal Stores Clerk . . . . . Elmira  
 John S. Gublo, Jr. . . . . Recreation Program Leader 1 . . . . . Elmira  
 Arthur J. Oleszkowski . . . . . Pharmacist 3 . . . . . Gowanda  
 Shirley Graves . . . . . Commissary Clerk 3 . . . . . Great Meadow  
 Bonnie L. Martin . . . . . Recreation Program Leader 1 . . . . . Greene  
 Donald D. Prevost . . . . . Vocational Instructor 4 . . . . . Groveland  
 Frank Corratti . . . . . Plant Utilities Assistant . . . . . Hudson  
 Judy Stratton . . . . . Mail & Supply Clerk . . . . . Lakeview  
 James M. Shanley . . . . . Teacher 4 . . . . . Livingston  
 Gershon Baron . . . . . Chaplain . . . . . Main Office

Fred Moody . . . . . Senior Correction Counselor . . . . . Main Office  
 Richard Rodriguez . . . . . Investigator . . . . . Main Office  
 William H. Bernard . . . . . Ed Supervisor (Voc) . . . . . Mt. McGregor  
 Joann Burrell . . . . . Nursing Assistant 2 . . . . . Mohawk  
 Anna M. Peterson . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . . Moriah  
 Charles D. Pearson . . . . . Calculations Clerk 1 . . . . . Riverview  
 George Knox, Jr. . . . . Plumber & Steamfitter . . . . . Ulster  
 Edmund Shumbris . . . . . Keyboard Specialist 1 . . . . . Ulster  
 Harry M. McIntosh . . . . . Head Cook . . . . . Ulster  
 George E. Kirkpatrick . . . . . Maintenance Supervisor 3 . . . . . Washington  
 Patrick Minucci . . . . . Correction Counselor . . . . . Washington  
 Selby Feldman . . . . . Calculations Clerk 2 . . . . . Woodbourne  
 Carol A. Wyzkowski . . . . . ASAT Program Asst . . . . . Wyoming  
 Randall A. Pickering . . . . . Correction Captain . . . . . Gowanda  
 Lynwood Hodges . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Bedford Hills  
 George O. Ellison . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Eastern  
 Richard Williams . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Elmira  
 Joseph A. Parrish . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Great Meadow  
 Francis L. Klein, Jr. . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Hudson  
 Richard W. Strong . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Southport  
 Anthony J. Longobardo . . . . . Correction Lieutenant . . . . . Woodbourne  
 Frank Kiernan . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Downstate  
 Michael Kelly . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Shawangunk  
 Robert Wexler . . . . . Correction Sergeant . . . . . Sullivan  
 Otis R. Parker . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 David L. Bowser . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Arthur Kill  
 Anthony R. Marino . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Attica  
 John D. Knox . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Auburn  
 Selwyn C. Belfon . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Bayview  
 Raymond L. Capers . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Bayview  
 Edward Dukett . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Camp Gabriels  
 Edward Morrow . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Camp Gabriels  
 James Fredenburg . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Georgetown  
 Brian J. Boyea . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Chateaugay  
 Orris J. Mayo . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Gary Keysor . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Francis J. Barcomb . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Dennis B. Harrsch . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Michael Delisle . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Bernard E. Gwinn . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Clinton  
 Donald F. Quinlivan . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Coxsackie  
 Richard Tierney . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Coxsackie  
 Douglas Roberts . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Coxsackie  
 David Wilber . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Coxsackie  
 Linda White . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Downstate  
 Cornelius K. Bremer . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Downstate  
 Richard F. Dwyer . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Downstate  
 L. M. Distel, Jr. . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Eastern  
 Calvin G. French . . . . . Correction Officer . . . . . Elmira

Continued on facing page

# Reception balances ...

*Continued from page 9*

“Booking” interviews are conducted to obtain basic information about an inmate’s family, emergency contacts, religion and other demographic information.

“Special needs” inmates are identified through interviews and medical examinations and held for extended classification.

These are inmates who are intellectually limited, victim prone, physically disabled, developmentally disabled, sensorially impaired, psychologically or psychiatrically unstable, or aggressive/assaultive.

Inmates with undocumented alien status are interviewed by federal staff, assigned on-site from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to determine their immigration status.

By the end of the process, inmates have been thoroughly screened for their appropriate security classification. They have been evaluated for the programs and services that can help them serve their time as productively as possible. Their special needs have been identified.

And they have been instructed how they can earn time off their sentences through good behavior and program participation.

They are ready for transfer to the facility that best matches their profile. Within the next few days to few weeks, depending on bed availability and any unusual circumstances, they will be sent to their assigned facility. 



**Incoming inmates are tested at Elmira.**

*Continued from facing page*

Martin F. Culshaw . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Elmira
Harry J. Edwards. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Elmira
Jack Oswald . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Fishkill
David M. Martin . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Franklin
Stephen Caruso . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Gouverneur
Tracy W. Conlon . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Great Meadow
Arthur R. Mays . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Green Haven
Reno Bo, Jr. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Green Haven
Thomas J. Donovan . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Greene
Joanne Frison . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Greene
Gerard W. Fogarty . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Mt. McGregor
Raymond L. Ormsby . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Mt. McGregor
Darryl L. Bodner . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Mid-Orange
Allan R. Royce . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Mid-Orange
Charles H. Webb, Jr. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Mid-State
James I. Varney . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Monterey SICF
Roland D. McCottery . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Ogdensburg
James W. Miller . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Ogdensburg

Albert Sciarca . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Otisville
Gary Conklin . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Otisville
Elton E. McCabe . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Queensboro
Walter C. Yukoweic . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Shawangunk
Stephen Minichello . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Ulster
Thomas W. Taylor . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Ulster
Alan W. Stay . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Woodbourne

## Deaths

Debra E. Gilbow . . . . .	Stores Clerk 1 . . . . .	Clinton
Randall Baker . . . . .	Correction Counselor. . . . .	Franklin
Francis Mitchell. . . . .	General Mechanic . . . . .	Franklin
Patrick E. King . . . . .	Correction Counselor. . . . .	Green Haven
Frank W. Ferranti. . . . .	Correction Sergeant . . . . .	Arthur Kill
Gary E. Steiger. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Attica
John A. Tabasco . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Downstate
Kenneth D. Ciaiola . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Fishkill
Mark V. Mullen . . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Five Points
Richard J. Norton. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Five Points
Peter E. Johnson. . . . .	Correction Officer. . . . .	Lincoln 

## Alexander trades college campus for DOCS school of hard knocks

When Jack Alexander came to work for DOCS in 1978, the inmate population had been climbing steadily for five years and stood at about 20,000. A general consensus was developing in the corrections profession – and had been reached within New York’s prison leadership – that the traditional manner of classifying inmates for security purposes had to change.

His job then was to lead the development of a new system.

“It became a system that has brought us a kind of steadiness,” said Mr. Alexander, who retired in May as director of the Office of Classification and Movement.

DOCS was originally an unknown environment for Mr. Alexander. He was a cultural anthropologist by training and college professor by occupation, at Colgate University, Hamilton College and SUNY-Oneonta. He had never before been in a prison the day he walked through the gate into Clinton, then the classification center for all adult males.

He had been hired by DOCS as a consultant on a grant from the National Institute of Corrections to help devise a quantifiable, objective system that could be used uniformly in determining an inmate’s security classification.

Traditionally, classification decisions rested heavily on the experience and professional judgment of analysts examining each case individually. In the late 1970s, however, the prison population was continuing to grow and more inmates were entering the system on non-violent offenses. The classification process was seen as too slow, too conservative and too inconsistent. In addition, the need became apparent for an assessment process other than that which had been devised for violent offenders who had previously made up the bulk of the inmate population. The challenge was to replace it with a system that was more responsive to inmate profiles, as well as one that was, overall, more efficient, objective and consistent.

But institutional change always meets resistance at first, and this was no exception. Mr. Alexander recalled being greeted with “quiet skepticism” when he arrived as the ultimate outsider – new to the corrections profession, new to DOCS and new to an operating prison.

So began the process of learning how the current system worked so a better system could be created. As the leader of the task force with that charge, Mr. Alexander spent five weeks at Clinton and then visited all the prisons in the state to observe, talk with and learn from supervisors, classification analysts and other staff.

“I placed a lot of weight on what people taught me,” he said.

Using the lessons learned within DOCS and building on work being done by others in criminal justice, the task force identified critical factors in the great majority of classification decisions. They assigned numerical values to them to produce DOCS Security Classification Guidelines.

Points are assigned to the violence in the inmate’s criminal background, escape and absconding history, time remaining to be served and disciplinary adjustment. The points are added together to generate the appropriate security classification. Since most cases are routine and fall clearly within the guidelines, the scoring system allows counselors to concentrate on cases that present special circumstances.

The security classification guidelines distinguish public risk from institutional risk. Public risk, a combination of the likelihood an inmate will escape

and his danger to the public were he to escape, is the more difficult to evaluate because escapes are rare and there is no statistically significant body of experience to evaluate. However, ample experience guides decisions about likely inmate behavior in particular prison environments.

The guidelines provide a structure that produces consistent results, but they are not rigid. Analysts still read probation reports and interview and evaluate inmates. They continue to have the responsibility to override scores that fail to account for special circumstances.

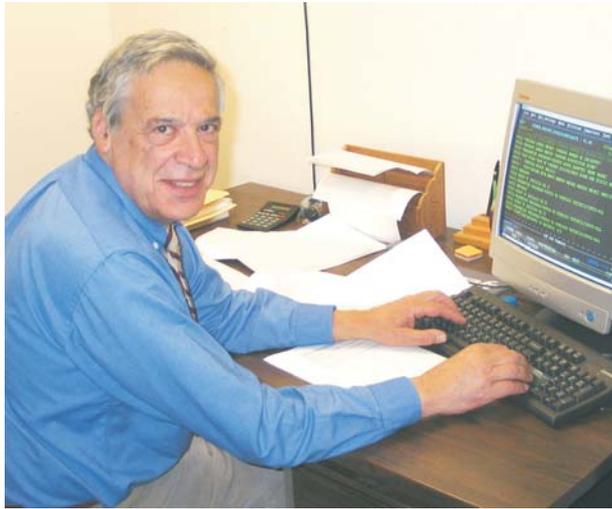
The security classification guidelines were implemented in 1980 when Downstate, which had opened the previous year as a separation center, was transformed into a reception and classification center.

The system made it possible to manage the explosive growth in the prison population over the next two decades. In 1980 the population stood at 21,929. When it peaked at the end of 1999 the population had more than tripled to 71,538 before starting on its current downward path.

When the guidelines were being developed a quarter-century ago about 70 percent of newly-admitted inmates were classified maximum-security upon reception. Because of the more objective guidelines, together with changes in inmate demographics, that figure has been cut to about 20 percent. Declining rates for escapes and violence inside New York’s prisons demonstrate that more sophisticated security classification has helped produce safer facilities.

DOCS was not the first prison system to adopt objective guidelines, but it was among the earliest. And New York is one of the few big states not to have had a class action suit brought against its classification methods.

“I think there’s a connection,” Mr. Alexander said. 



Mr. Alexander reviews inmate classifications.