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Pataki signs Rocky drug reform into law



Governor George Pataki signs the Rockefeller drug law reform bill into law. It will allow more than 400 A-1 felons to seek judicial review of their prison sentences. The law also shortens the terms of lower-level offenders, allowing many of them to earn earlier release as well. The Governor and legislative leaders said the law was a first step in support of further reform of drug laws.

Pataki: We'll reduce crime further across New York State ...

[Editor's note: The following is excerpted from Governor Pataki's "State of the State" message delivered on Jan. 5 before a joint session of the Legislature at the Capitol in Albany.]

Let's begin where we always have – with government's most important responsibility – ensuring the safety and security of its people.

In 1994, New York was the sixth most violent state in the nation.

Today, a decade later, we're the seventh safest, and the safest large state in America.

That is undoubtedly a stunning achievement.

While I could cite a hundred different statistics to illustrate its magnitude, let me give you just one.

In New York State, 86,168 fewer violent crimes occurred in 2003 than a decade ago.

Let me repeat that ... 86,168 fewer violent crimes in 2003 than in 1994.

Think about it – more than 86,000 families saved from being torn apart by a murder, rape or vicious assault.

And that's just in one year.

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If the level of violent crime in 1994 had gone unchanged over the course of the last ten years, more than a half-million more New Yorkers could have become victims of violent crime.

But you and I made a difference – we made the fundamental changes that saved lives.

And we didn't just reduce the number of crimes, we reduced the number of criminals.

Because we had



Governor Pataki addresses the Legislature.

the courage to disregard the naysayers, there are now 8,000 fewer people in prison than in 1999.

Because of the tougher, smarter laws we enacted, the rate of recidivism in our state has fallen by an astonishing one-third.

Less crime and fewer criminals – how did we do it?

By fighting for "bold, sweeping, fundamental change" to our criminal justice system:

- We instituted the death penalty.
- We abolished parole for violent felons.
- We gave police new tools like DNA technology to help them get criminals off our streets and out of our neighborhoods.
- We passed 108 new laws that toughened penalties or closed criminal friendly loopholes.

Of course, we couldn't have done it without the extraordinary efforts of the men and women in blue and the leadership of dedicated local officials across our great state – from the smallest hamlets to the great City of New York.

I would like to give special thanks to Mayor Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for being great partners in our fight against crime.

Over the last ten years, no state in America has done more to protect its citizens and you can and should be proud for your role in this historic turnaround.

But we can and will do more.

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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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... even though we already outpace the nation in cutting crime

**During first half of '04, crime down 2.8%
violent crime fell 3.6%, property by 2.6%**

Governor Pataki has announced that in the first six months of 2004, crime continued to drop to historic lows in New York State.

The preliminary crime statistics released today show New York with an estimated 3.6 percent decline in violent crimes – including an 8.4 percent decline in murder – and a 2.6 percent drop in property crime. New York continues to outpace the rest of the nation, which only had a 2.0 percent drop in violent crime and a 1.9 percent drop in property crime.

“Our continued progress in 2004 builds on the dramatic crime reductions we’ve made over past 10 years,” Governor Pataki said. “Our tough, but smart criminal justice policies have helped make New York the safest large state in the nation. Over the past decade, we have enacted common sense reforms, kept violent criminals behind bars, and provided strong support for our law enforcement professionals who work tirelessly to make our streets and neighborhoods safe. As a result we have enjoyed a historic reduction in crime that continues to outpace the rest of the nation.”

“These preliminary numbers show that we have succeeded in keeping even more New Yorkers safe from crime. There were more than 1,400 fewer violent crimes in New York in the first six months of this year, as compared to 2003. While these results are impressive, we can and must do more. We must enact new legislation to keep New Yorkers safe and secure. I have repeatedly called for new legislation to end parole for all felons, toughen the penalties for gun trafficking, provide greater protection from sexual predators, and eliminate the statute of limitations for rape,” the Governor added.

The newly-released FBI crime estimates for the first six months of 2004 show that violent offenses (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) declined by more than 3.6 percent in New York State, compared to only a 2.0 percent decrease nationwide. Additionally, murders in New York State have declined by 8.4 percent and robberies by 6.3 percent, while murders on the national level have decreased by 5.7 percent and robbery by 5.0 percent. Rapes in New York increased by 2.5 percent, compared to a national increase of 1.4 percent.

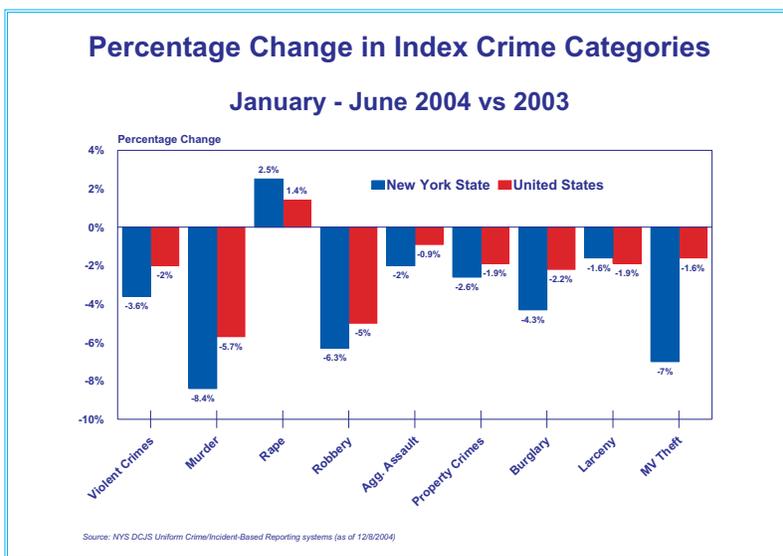
Property offenses (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) declined by 2.6 percent in New York State, and 1.9 percent nationwide. In individual categories, New York State had declines of 4.3 percent for burglary, 1.6 percent for larceny and 7.0 per-

cent for motor vehicle theft. In contrast, the rest of the nation experienced decreases of 2.2 percent for burglary, 1.9 percent for larceny, and 1.6 percent for motor vehicle theft.

Over the last 10 years, violent crime in New York State has been reduced by over 50 percent, and crime is at its lowest levels since statewide crime reporting began -nearly 40 years ago. New York State is the safest large state in the nation.

In order to help make New York the safest state in the nation, the Governor launched Operation IMPACT in his 2004 State of the State Address 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, Governor Pataki championed key administrative and legislative initiatives to help us reach our ambitious goal. The legislation proposed by the Governor includes:

- Strengthen Megan’s Law to provide the public with additional information and impose penalties on sex offenders who fail to comply;



- Eliminate the statute of limitations for rape, sexual assault, and other serious violent felonies in light of advances in DNA science and expansion of the NYS DNA databank;
- Provide jail time for chronic misdemeanor offenders to stop career criminals;
- Provide police and prosecutors the laws they need to take those who use, sell or possess illegal guns off our streets;
- 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 our DWI laws;
- Provide mandatory arrest of domestic violence abusers;
- Deny custody and visitation privileges to domestic violence abusers;
- Ensure that sexually violent criminals who pose a threat are not released into our communities, and
- Establish new crimes to punish the operation of dangerous clandestine laboratories that manufacture methamphetamine. 

Governor Pataki signs law reforming Rockefeller drug laws ...

New reform dramatically cuts sentences, offers retro relief to some offenders

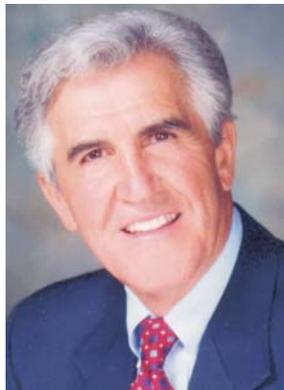
Governor Pataki was joined last month by Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver when he signed legislation reforming the Rockefeller Drug Laws, and restructuring portions of the law that were widely agreed to be too harsh.

The new law will eliminate indeterminate sentences and create a determinate sentencing structure for drug offenders; offer re-sentencing for eligible non-violent A-I drug offenders in prison; increase the weight thresholds for the most severe possession crimes; and allow earlier release for those offenders in prison committed to treatment and recovery.

“For more than four years, I have made reforming the Rockefeller Drug Laws a top priority, and I am proud that together, we’ve enacted meaningful reform that is both just and balanced,” said Governor Pataki. “Not only does this new law reform the sentencing structure for drug offenders, but it provides opportunities of relief for all non-violent offenders sentenced under the previous law.

“Hundreds of non-violent offenders serving unduly long sentences will have an opportunity to be immediately reunited with their families. With the signing of this law today, these offenders will be given another chance to lead a productive life free of drugs and crime,” the Governor said.

Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno said, “This law achieves a long-standing goal to reform the state’s outdated Rockefeller Drug Laws by addressing first-time, non-violent drug offenders who have received unfairly lengthy prison sentences under the old laws. I’ve advocated for clemency for victims of these laws, I’ve met with their families and discussed the issue with advocates. In our minds and the minds of the public, it’s time to change



Mr. Bruno

these laws to reflect advances in drug treatment and other alternatives that can do more for nonviolent, low-level drug offenders than simply throwing them in prison for decades and I applaud Governor Pataki for signing this measure into law.”

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said, “For more than five years, the Assembly has led the way in the fight for meaningful drug law reforms, including sentencing modifications, greater judicial discretion and more treatment options for addicted of-



Mr. Silver

fenders. The Assembly Majority recognizes that this measure will provide appropriate sentencing reductions for thousands of nonviolent offenders. While this agreement is an important step in the right direction, it is not the complete and comprehensive solution we had sought and will continue to seek in the next legislative session.”



Mr. Volker

Senate Codes Committee Chairman Dale M. Volker said, “Governor Pataki made it a priority to bring a fair, reasonable and sensible approach to our state’s sentencing guidelines for drug offenses. His message was heard by both the State Assembly and State Senate, which culminated in a bill that is fair for those incarcerated under the most severe sentences under the Rockefeller drug laws, addresses the needs for those who may come in contact with the criminal justice system due to

drug-related circumstances, and gives the judiciary a say in future sentences for those convicted of drug crimes. In the end, this new law will still appropriately protect law-abiding New Yorkers who want their communities free from those who prey upon our children, our loved ones, and our communities.”

Assembly Corrections Committee Chair Jeffrion Aubry said, “This agreement will provide hope to hundreds of incarcerated drug offenders who will now be able to seek judicial resentencing in accordance with the sentencing changes called for under this legislation and also allow thousands of additional currently incarcerated offenders to earn additional time off their sentences by using their prison time productively. While I firmly believe that full judicial discretion and treatment as an alternative to prison would be the best option, for right now this is substantial progress.”



Mr. Aubry

The cornerstones of the reform package include: replacing the indeterminate sentencing structure for class A-I drug offenders from indeterminate sentences of 15 to 25 years to life with determinate sentences ranging from 8 to 20 years; doubling, from 4 ounces to 8 ounces, the threshold possession weights required for an A-I drug felony conviction, and from 2 ounces to 4 ounces for an A-II drug felony conviction; allowing class A-I drug offenders currently in prison to immediately petition for re-sentencing; and reducing the prison time an offender is required to serve before becoming eligible for drug treatment programs and possible release.

These reforms will complement the legislation Governor

Continued on facing page

... most sweeping changes since initial laws were enacted in 1973

Provides new drug sentencing structure, offers treatment as a sentencing option

After years of protracted and intense negotiations, the Drug Law Reform Act of 2004 is the most sweeping change of the Rockefeller Drug Laws since their original enactment in 1973.

In several key respects, this reform bill builds upon existing initiatives with a proven track record – such as determinate sentencing, Merit Time and the Comprehensive Alcohol and Substance Abuse Treatment (CASAT) program.

In a nutshell, drug offenders who commit their offenses on or after January 13, 2005, will receive determinate sentences instead of the present indeterminate structure. Class A-II through Class E drug offenders presently confined by the Department who prove themselves worthy may be eligible to earn a supplemental merit reduction to their minimum periods of incarceration in the amount of an additional one-sixth. Class A-I

drug offenders may apply to the sentencing courts to be resentenced to a determinate term that is authorized under the new law. Drug offenders may be able to enter the CASAT program six months earlier than what the prior law allowed.

Determinate sentencing was first introduced as part of the Governor’s Sentencing Reform Act of 1995 and at the time it was applicable to repeat violent felony offenders. Later, in 1998, Jenna’s Law extended it to first-time violent offenders and it also added periods of post-release supervision for when such offenders were to be released to the community.

Inmates under determinate sentences are not eligible for discretionary release on parole. They are, however, eligible to earn good time in the amount of one-seventh. The

major reason why determinate sentencing is so preferable is that it provides much more certainty to the sentencing process at the time the sentence is pronounced. All of the interested participants in the criminal justice system, which include the

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Drug Law Sentencing Comparison		
<i>First Felony Conviction</i>		
Class	Rockefeller Law of 1973	Reform Act of 2004
A-I	Minimum: 15 years to Life Maximum: 25 years to Life	8 to 20-year Determinate
A-II	Minimum: 3 years to Life Maximum: 8-1/3 years to Life	3 to 10-year Determinate
B	Minimum: 1 to 3 Maximum: 8-1/3 to 25	1 to 9-year Determinate
C	Minimum: 1 to 3 Maximum: 5 to 15	1 to 5-1/2-year Determinate
D	Minimum: 1 to 3 Maximum: 2-1/3 to 7	1 to 2-1/2-year Determinate
E	Minimum: 1 to 3 Maximum: 1-1/3 to 4	1 to 1-1/2-year Determinate

Governor signs Rockefeller law reform ...

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Pataki signed last year, which permitted merit time credit for those serving a sentence for an A-I drug felony under the law.

Chauncey G. Parker, New York State Director of Criminal Justice said, “This legislation eliminates the one-size-fits-all approach to drug sentencing and allows the punishment to truly fit the crime. This new law offers significant relief to those eligible, nonviolent offenders who are serving the longest sentences, while creating more opportunities for those convicted of a nonviolent drug felony to receive treatment and recovery, so they can lead productive lives and positively contribute to their communities. Thanks to Governor Pataki’s leadership, this new law will make a difference in the lives of those who were affected by the harsh provisions of the Rockefeller Drug Laws.”

Highlights of the bill include:

- Dramatic sentence reductions for nonviolent drug offenders: Shorter Minimum Sentences - Nearly 80% of drug offenders sentenced to prison annually could be eligible for a shorter sentence. - Class A-I, first-time drug offenders could receive a nearly 50% reduction in minimum sentences, from 15 years to 8 years. - All other nonviolent drug offenders could be eligible for

earlier release, as well. Doubling of Weights for Possession - The threshold weights will double for class A-I and A-II drug possession offenses.

- Retroactive relief for virtually all nonviolent drug felons: Relief for Class A-I Drug Felons - All class A-I drug offenders could apply for re-sentencing. All drug offenders serving life sentences for Class A-I drug convictions are eligible to apply for re-sentencing under the new laws. Relief for all other Non-Violent Offenders - All other drug offenders under custody (class A-II and below) who have not reached their minimum sentences could be eligible for an additional merit time reduction of 1/6 off their minimum sentences.

Of the approximately 14,000 drug offenders currently in custody for a felony drug conviction, 446 are class A-I drug felons, serving life sentences with minimum terms of 15 years or more. The remaining drug offenders in prison serve, on average, 2.6 years in prison. The new legislation would reduce the lengthy minimum sentences for class A-I felons, while also shortening sentences for all other nonviolent felons.

Governor Pataki first called for reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws more than four years ago, making him the first governor to propose and enact comprehensive reform since the laws were signed in 1973. 

Continued from previous page

judge, the district attorney, the defense lawyer, the defendant and the crime victim, as well as members of the general public, have a much clearer understanding as to what a sentence of imprisonment will actually mean when it is imposed.

It is for this reason that the Legislature and the Executive determined that the central tenet for Rockefeller Drug Law reform should be the creation of a determinate sentencing format for all drug offenses, including A-I offenses. No longer will a drug offender under the new law receive a life sentence maximum term or have his or her potential release determined by the Board of Parole. Instead, every drug offender will have a fixed, determinate sentence that will be specified in whole or half years. Each drug offender will also have a term of post-release supervision to serve in the community after release from prison.

The permissible determinate sentences for all drug offenders who commit their crimes on or after January 13, 2005, which include Class A-I, A-II, B, C, D, and E offenses, are set out in newly added sections 70.70 and 70.71 of the Penal Law. Three different sentencing categories are created: one for first felony drug offenders, one for repeat drug offenders with a prior non-violent felony, and one for repeat drug offenders with a prior violent felony.

Prison terms significantly reduced

In general, the amounts of prison time that can be imposed for the various drug offenses under the new law are significantly reduced in comparison to the old law. It is estimated that 80% of drug offenders who will be sent to state prison on an annual basis will receive shorter sentences. Furthermore, the new law doubles the threshold weights for convictions of both A-I and A-II possession offenses when the controlled substance is a narcotic drug, such as heroin or cocaine. Hence, the A-I felony of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the first degree will require the possession of eight ounces, as opposed to four ounces, of a narcotic drug. The A-II offense of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the second degree will require the possession of four ounces, as opposed to two ounces, of a narcotic drug.

Newly-sentenced drug offenders will also be eligible to earn a merit time reduction off of their determinate terms in the amount of an additional one-seventh. The program and disciplinary criteria for earning merit time will remain unchanged. An inmate who qualifies can be conditionally released from prison after serving five-sevenths of the imposed determinate term. For example, if an inmate gets a three and one-half-year determinate sentence for the sale of drugs under the new law, he can earn a merit conditional release after two and one-half years if he satisfies all of the merit time requirements, or he can be

conditionally released after three years if he earns the full amount of good time.

In a similar fashion, a drug offender with a determinate sentence can enter the Shock Incarceration Program if he is within three years of conditional release when received at a reception center. If he completes the six-month program, he will be issued a certificate of earned eligibility and be conditionally released upon graduation. No repeat class B drug offender will be eligible for Shock, however.



Classroom instruction is pivotal at Willard.

Also, an inmate with a determinate drug sentence can be sent to Willard for the intensive 90-day drug treatment program. If successful, the inmate will then continue to be supervised in the community.

The sentencing court will also have the option for drug offenders of imposing a requirement that the inmate be enrolled in CASAT by the Department at the appropriate time in the inmate's sentence. It will be up to the defendant to request the Court to impose this condition. The law further provides, however, that the Department will continue to use its current rules and regulations for determining program eligibility, including accep-

tance into and removal from the program. The law also specifies that repeat Class B drug offenders with determinate sentences must spend at least 18 months in custody, including jail time, before being eligible to graduate from Phase I of CASAT and be transferred to a community release facility. A separate provision in the statute contains this same 18-month rule for when these specific offenders would be eligible to be placed in temporary release.

The new law also allows drug offenders to enter CASAT slightly earlier than what prior law allows. Old law provides that it is when the inmate is within two years of earliest release. The new law provides that it is when the inmate is within 30 months of earliest release. A change was also made to the Temporary Release statute to codify the Department's present practice of allowing inmates to be considered for this program when they are within two years of their merit time release date.

Resentencing for A-I Drug Offenders

For drug offenders presently in the system, the new law also provides the possibility of significant relief. A-I drug offenders with minimum sentences of 15 years or more may apply to the sentencing court to be resentenced in accordance with the determinate sentencing provisions of the new law. For example, a first time A-I drug offender with a 15-year to life sentence could be resentenced to a determinate term of between eight and 20 years. To illustrate, if the Court were to impose a 14-year determinate sentence, the defendant would not appear before a Parole Board, but may be eligible for a merit conditional release after ten years, or may be eligible for conditional

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release after 12 years. Under the 15-year to life sentence, however, such inmate would be eligible for a merit release by the Parole Board after ten years, since the merit reduction for A-I offenders under the old law is one-third. It will be necessary for all individuals who seek relief under this provision to understand precisely what the differing possibilities are both with respect to the current indeterminate sentence they are serving and the possible determinate sentence which would take its place.

If an inmate applies to be resentenced, the Court must offer the opportunity for a hearing with the inmate present. The inmate will also be entitled to legal representation in the application process, including the assignment of counsel if he or she is indigent. A new pre-sentence report cannot be ordered, however, the Court may consider the inmate's institutional record while confined with the Department, as well as any other facts or circumstances presented either by the inmate, his lawyer, or the prosecutor. The Court, in its discretion, may deny the application. Otherwise, the Court will inform the inmate of the new determinate term it would impose as authorized by the new law. The inmate can then either accept the new sentence or withdraw the application. The inmate will also have the option to appeal any denial of his application or the new sentence the Court would impose on the ground that it is harsh or excessive. The inmate does not have to actually be resentenced in order to be able to appeal the determinate sentence that the Court indicated it would impose.

Supplemental Merit Time for Class A-II's thru Class E's

The possibility for relief is also available for all A-II through Class E drug offenders presently in the system serving indeterminate sentences of imprisonment in the form of a supplemental one-sixth merit time allowance. For the conventional one-sixth merit time allowance, in addition to maintaining a very good disciplinary record and earning a certificate of earned eligibility, the inmate must do one of the following: obtain a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), obtain an alcohol and substance abuse treatment certificate, obtain a vocational trade certificate after six months of programming, or perform 400 hours or more of service as part of a community crew. In order to qualify for the supplemental merit allowance, however, the inmate would either have to do two of these four program alternatives, or do one of these four plus maintain employment in work release for at least three months.

To illustrate a practical application, consider an inmate with a six- to 18-year sentence who maintains a very good disciplinary record, earns a certificate of earned eligibility, and obtains both a GED and an alcohol and substance abuse treatment cer-

tificate. Since the supplemental merit time allowance is an additional one-sixth, this inmate would appear before a supplemental merit time Parole Board after four years. The Department is presently in the process of making the necessary programming adjustments to its computer system to first identify all potential candidates for this supplemental merit consideration, and then ascertain whether all eligibility criteria have been satisfied.

When the Law Takes Effect

In terms of the effective dates, the bill took effect when it was signed by Governor Pataki into law on December 14, 2004. However, certain provisions were not effective immediately. For example, the provision that deals with resentencing for A-I drug offenders and the provision that deals with supplemental merit time allowances took effect 13 days after it was signed into law, which was December 27, 2004. Those provisions

which deal with the new sentencing structure will take effect 30 days after the effective date, or on January 13, 2005, and apply to crimes committed on or after such date.

As is often the case with new and somewhat involved initiatives undertaken by the Department, a significant amount of careful

planning and coordination will be required to implement this new law in a complete and timely manner, as envisioned by the Executive and the Legislature.

This will also require detailed coordination with the judiciary, district attorney offices, defense lawyers and the Division of Parole.

Commissioner Goord said, "While the task at hand is quite challenging, there is no doubt that once again the Department and its dedicated employees will rise to the occasion, deliver a professional product, and exceed all expectations." 



Group counseling is a key to CASAT, shown here at Marcy.

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. 



Armed CERT members provide surveillance of bus after its passengers were taken hostage in a recent drill.

Drill tests training

The drill was unannounced and filled with scenarios that required staff to use their ingenuity based upon years of correctional experience and professional training.

“Operation Canyon Capture” involved more than 180 people from Correction Emergency Response Teams, Crisis Intervention Units, K-9 crews, the Technical Support Unit and the Inspector General’s office.

To preserve the authenticity of the day-long exercise, most participants had no advance knowledge that it would take place.

Captain Michael Capra of the Training Academy, the CERT field commander, was one of the designers of the training mission.

The mission was designed to be outside the normal duties and experiences of staff. That “liquid scenario” required participants to react to situations that changed in response to their actions – exactly what they would find in a real-life situation.

But the drill soon became more complicated.

Following a call to respond to a bus hijacking, staff also found themselves facing a hostage situation. In addition, other kidnapers had captured a hiker and were holding that civilian in a wooded area. Finally, a pair of escaped inmates hid in another wooded area, one with serious injuries requiring staff to use their medical skills on-site while extracting the inmate and providing medical transport to a regional critical care center.

With all scenarios taking place simultaneously, the mission was designed to test the ability of CERT and CIU teams to work together and employ a host of strategies and skills to resolve these situations simultaneously.

At the same time, the drill provides a real test of equipment and tactics to determine what works best and what needs improvement.

“We accomplished what we set out to accomplish. We wanted to train our guys,” one drill leader said. “It’s about discipline. It’s about following orders. It’s about carrying out a mission.” 



Technical Support Unit stays in communication.



Counter-clockwise from top right, photos show CERT meeting to coordinate tactics and then moving out, first with a protective vehicle and then on their own in formation. As the team member shown above stays in contact by phone, he is also prepared to participate in an assault if talks fail or hostages face imminent danger.



Auburn's 'Copper John' returns to duty atop state's oldest prison

“Copper John,” the statue of a Revolutionary War soldier who has stood sentinel over Auburn since the prison was built in 1821, came down from the roof for only the third time in his history in July so he could be restored during a roof repair project at the 1,818-bed maximum-security facility.

His previous furloughs were in 1848, when the original wooden statue was replaced with the current replica made of sheet copper by foundry inmates, and from 1938 to 1940 when the administration building was being torn down and replaced.

Copper John has been the centerpiece of the nameplate of DOCS|TODAY since its publication began in 1987.

Michael Gray, plant superintendent at Auburn, said stainless steel rods, nuts and bolts were used to replace Copper John's rusted metal supports during the restoration. He was also given a face lift, repainted in the state's colors with a blue jacket and gold pants and buttons, all covered in a clear preservative sealant.

Mr. Gray said removing the old paint was a time-consuming process. Sand-blasting would have released the old lead-based paint to the atmosphere, so liquid paint remover had to be applied and then wiped off.

“We wanted to get him down to bare metal so we wouldn't have lumps when we repainted him,” he explained.

Staff performed the paint work while inmates assisted with the machine shop portion of the project, which involved pounding out dents, reinforcing weak areas, soldering joints and installing support rods.

“They (inmates) built the original one. I figured they can help fix this one, and they wanted to,” said senior industrial superintendent David Saxton.

Maintenance employees Milo Tanner and Peter Longo did the extensive stripping and refinishing of the statue, while Industrial Training Supervisor Brett Ray did the metal repair work.

Restoration was done at minimal cost for in-house materials, such as paint.

Copper John was lowered to the ground by crane July 15 and then returned on October 1 to his perch on top of the administration building by the roofing contractor, SBR Roofing of Phoenix in Oswego County, at no charge to the state.



Crane prepares to lower 'Copper John' from his perch.

With the statue in the shop for repairs, SBR removed lead-coated copper roofing material, including the section under Copper John, and replaced it with zinc-coated copper material.

The rooftop foundation on which the statue stands also required repairs.

While Copper John was down for repairs, he was also re-measured and re-weighed. The results confirmed some earlier

details and corrected others.

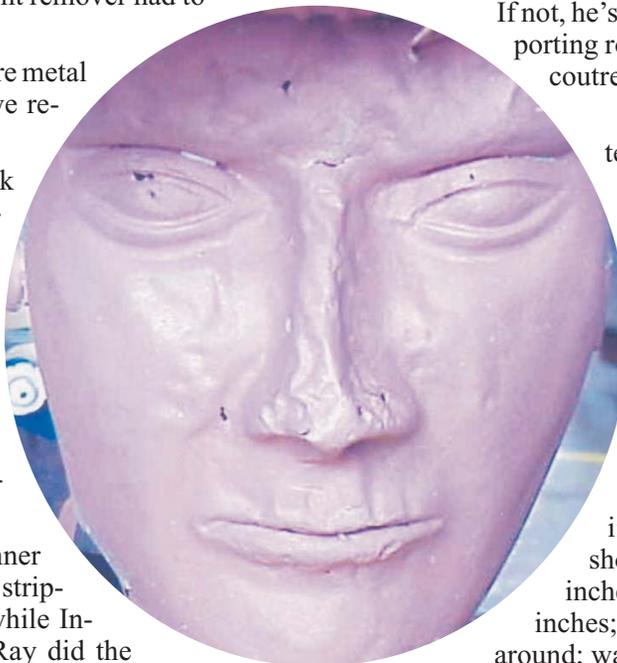
For instance, over the years Copper John has been described as a 600-pound statue, which may be approximately true if the weight of his base and the rooftop foundation on which it sits are included.

If not, he's rather trim: his body without metal supporting rods weighs 122 pounds. With all the accoutrements, his weight jumps to 335 pounds.

It has been long said he is made of quarter-inch sheet copper. Sorry, but new measurement shows the statue is a combination of 20-gauge and 24-gauge copper, or about 1/16th of an inch.

He stands 137 inches (11 feet, five inches) from the bottom of his boot to the tip of the bayonet attached to the musket he carries. His flintlock is 9 feet, 8-1/4 inches from the butt resting in his left palm to bayonet tip.

Some other details: boots, 14 inches long; sleeve, 30-1/2 inches; shoulder width, 24 inches; calf, 23-1/4 inches; thigh, 28-1/2 inches; knee, 23-1/2 inches; ankle, 17-1/4 inches; neck, 19 inches around; waist, 53 inches; chest, 54 inches.



The unvarnished visage of 'Copper John.'

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The bare minimum of 'Copper John.'

Continued from facing page

His head is 24-1/4 inches tall, his ears are 3-3/8 inches long, his right hand is 9 inches long with fingers that are an inch wide. He has a 3-inch-long nose. His lips are 3 inches from side to side. His eyes measure 2-1/4 inches by 1-1/4 inches.

Copper John began his service as a wooden statue placed atop the peak of the original administration building in 1821, when the state's oldest prison was still under construction. Facing outward, he began watch over the City of Auburn and became a landmark in the community.

By 1848 he had become so decayed he was replaced with a replica made of sheet copper by inmates in the prison foundry.

In 1938 he was brought down for repairs while the administration building was being replaced, prompting public concern that he might not return to his sentinel duty when the new structure was complete. However, prisons Commissioner Edward P. Mulrooney assured the community that Copper John would return to service, and so he did in about 1940.

Repairs were performed again in 1981, but only his head came down that time. Auburn employees used scaffolding to repair and repaint Copper John on the roof, while sheet metal instructor Edward Clancy repaired his head, which was then reattached.

Copper John's namesake is uncertain. Some believe he was named for John D. Cray, who carved the original wooden statue. Others argue for Col. John Hardenburgh, the founder of the village known as "The Corners" which later became the City of Auburn. Still others say the honor belongs to John Gaylord, the foundry superintendent where the second, copper figure was made.

In Auburn prison lore, inmates get to "meet Copper John face-to-face" only when they are released, since inmates are processed in through a rear gate while Copper John's face can only be seen from outside the front of the prison.

Auburn's parolees once referred to their incarceration as "The time I worked for 'Copper John.'" 📖



Prepared to return to duty.

Words Travel from inmates to their children on the outside

The letters from the inmates tell the story best:

- “I recommend this program to all inmates with children. This program is a Godsend.”
- “It goes to show that, although I’m away from her at this moment, Daddy is always thinking of her every day of her growing life and that I will never forget her special days such as her birthdays and accomplishments.”
 - “The expression on my daughter’s face when she receives this is going to be priceless and I wish I could see it.”
 - “This has allowed me and my son to have quiet time with each other. To put it as he said it: ‘It’s my time with my dad that means so much to me.’”

These are some of the unedited comments of Collins inmates who have taken part in Words Travel, a program developed by Senior Librarian Prakash Upadhyaya that allows the men to read stories to their children by recording them on tape and mailing the tapes home.

Words Travel uses children’s books donated by the Brownstone Book Fund and the Prisoners’ Reading Encouragement Program. Inmates are able to record themselves on tape reading a story to their child. After being reviewed by staff, the tapes are sent to the child, and the parent at home is encouraged to borrow the book from the local library so the child can read along with the tape.

Help is available to inmates to learn about reading to children and capable inmates are encouraged to join in a tutoring program for other inmates. The program provides inmates with a unique way to communicate with their children. It also encourages the reading habits of both inmates and children.

Diane Brownstone, who donated 100 books for the program through her fund, wrote to express her delight at what Words Travel has accomplished at Collins.

“I am beyond thrilled and gratified with the success you have achieved with your Words Travel program. I can see how carefully planned and implemented your procedure was and the rewarding results that followed,” she said. “Thank you for your caring and inspiration that has helped many families connect despite the obvious difficulties.”

About 45 percent of the Collins general population uses the

library services, and more than 100 different inmates have recorded tapes in the Words Travel program.

Words Travel was developed and is overseen by Mr. Upadhyaya (commonly called Mr. U), who is also credited with rebuilding the Collins library services since his arrival there in 2001.

Collins, situated on the grounds of the former Gowanda Psychiatric Center which opened in 1898, is divided into two separate compounds, each with its own secured perimeter fencing. It also contains a 110-bed Protective Custody Unit and a 100-cell, double-occupancy maximum security S-block.

The physical layout alone presents problems in maintaining library offerings, said DOCS supervising librarian Jean Botta.

“That means a lot of outreach services. He (Mr. Upadhyaya) has a lot on his plate,” she said. “He has a lot of challenges and he’s meeting them all very well. He turned around those libraries.”

Mr. Upadhyaya came to the United States from his native India in 1969 to study at Western Michigan University, where he earned a master’s degree in Librarianship.

“I was very adventurous. I guess it was meant to be,” he said.

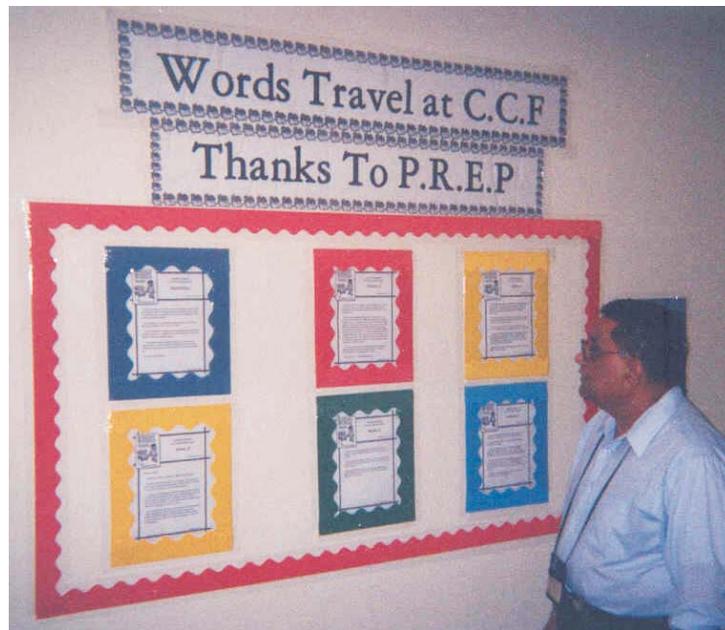
Before joining DOCS he had worked at prison, hospital and school libraries in the Midwest, Florida and Virginia. Family matters had led him to look for a position in New York, and a professional relationship with Ms. Botta’s counterpart in the Ohio corrections system provided the connection.

“I have been blessed to have good people to work with,” he said of his experience with the Department.

He credits Rich Becker, Deputy Superintendent of Programs at Collins, as the inspiration for Words Travel, and Annette Johnson of the Prisoners’ Reading Encouragement Program for supplying books that make it work.

“I am involved in the project, but Mr. Becker is the one who conceived it,” he said. “From the very beginning of the program Ms. Johnson’s group took the program under their wing and continuously donated quality children’s books to the library from which the participating inmates can choose books to read from to their children.”

Despite all Mr. Upadhyaya’s kind words for his associates, Ms. Botta had the last words: “I wish I could clone him.”



Senior librarian Upadhyaya examines inmate work.

Transitions

November - December 2004

Name	Title	Location			
Promotion					
Daniel F. Ward	Plant Util Asst	Adirondack	Paul Hogan.	Sr Counselor ASAT	Hale Creek
Michael Ploof	Sr. Correction Counselor	Adirondack	Joseph Chisholm.	Supvr Inmate Grv Pg.	Lakeview
Diane L. Mazur	Principal Acct Clerk.	Albion	Jamieson S. Parry	Sr. Correction Counselor	Livingston
Cathy L. Miller	Principal Clerk Personnel.	Altona	Sharon M. Burnett	Laundry Supvr	Livingston
Nelson Cintron	Sr. Correction Counselor	Arthur Kill	Lorraine Hogan.	Prog Research Spec 2	Main Office
Mark Linsey	Industrial Trng Supv 2	Attica	Charles L. Gordon	Asst Dir Mental Health Pgm	Main Office
James D. Snyder.	Motor Vehicle Operator.	Attica	Brian E. Lane.	Prog Research Spec 3	Main Office
Theresa Dyson	Supvr Inmate Grv Pg	Attica	Kim E. Ghatt	Sr. Training Tech.	Main Office
Bernard R. Blowers.	Industrial Trng Supv 2	Auburn	Pamela White	Supvr Corrl Indus Pur	Main Office
Sharon P. Flanagan	Sr Correction Counselor	Bare Hill	Deborah W. Kinderman	Sr. Correction Counselor	Main Office
Katherine King	Commissary Clerk 2	Bare Hill	Cythia L. Machold	Personnel Admin Trainee 1	Main Office
Jacki Kelly	Deputy Supt Admin Svcs 3.	Bare Hill	Chad Secor	Sr. Mail & Supply Clerk.	Main Office
Margaret R. Cudjoe	Nurse 2.	Bayview	Leslie Lansing	Assoc Personnel Admin	Main Office
Rosaura Bernard	Inmate Records Coord 1	Bayview	Susan M. Fortin	Payroll Clerk 4	Main Office
Ignacio A. Baez	Head Acct Clerk	Bedford Hills	John Ludwin	Agency Labor Rel Rep 3	Main Office
William J. Deangelis	Gen Mechanic	Butler	Jason Coffey	Info Tech Asst	Main Office
Roberta Boyler	Clerk 2	Cape Vincent	Marie-Josée Sukhu.	Admnv Aide	Main Office
Jeffrey Lindstrand	Dep Supt Admin Svcs 3	Cape Vincent	Brian M. Sullivan	Personnel Admr Trn 1	Main Office
Stephen M. MacDonald	Commissary Clerk	Clinton	Teresa W. Wuerdeman.	Dir Health Svcs Ops Mgt	Main Office
Michael W. Lashua	Stores Clerk 2	Clinton	Tamatha C. Keppler	Clerk 2	Main Office
Gerald F. Passino, Jr.	Carpenter	Clinton	Kelly McAteer	Info Tech Asst	Main Office
Kathleen D. Tetreault.	Stores Clerk 2	Clinton	Gail F. Plescia	Purchasing Asst 2	Main Office
Christine M. Timmel	Nurse 2.	Collins	Roseanne M. Duke.	Secretary 1.	Marcy
Maryann Singleton	Nurse 2.	Collins	William M. Beers	Maint Asst. Mechanic.	Mid-State
John N. Antonelli	Supvr Inmate Grv Prg	Coxsackie	Lorrie A. Manuele	Secretary 1.	Mohawk
Katherine A. Brennan	Nurse 2.	Coxsackie	Susan E. Wimmer	Secretary 2.	Mohawk
Patricia A. Hardy	Nurse 2.	Coxsackie	David Black	Gen Mechanic	Ogdensburg
Linda J. Burka	Secretary 2.	Downstate	Margaret E. Hague.	Stores Clerk 2	Oneida
Susan E. Lewis.	Secretary 2.	Eastern	Joelle D. Landry	Prin Clerk Personnel	Oneida
Tracey Obryan	Deputy Supt Admin Svcs 2.	Edgecombe	Margaret Delaune	Dep Supt Admnv Svcs 2	Queensboro
Steven Dennis Mayfield	Cook	Edgecombe	Barry J. McArdle	Dep Supt Security Svcs 2	Queensboro
Catherine Grant	Inmate Records Coord 1	Edgecombe	Richard L. Vankirk	Sr. Correction Counselor	Riverview
Steven Avery	Corrl Fac Food Admin 1	Edgecombe	Lynette Wieserner	Clerk 2	Shawangunk
Thomas M. Lucas	Dep Supt Security Svcs 2	Edgecombe	Mary Anne Hughes.	Commissary Clerk 2	Southport
Stacey M. Lyons	Dental Asst	Fishkill	Deane M. Gardner	Payroll Clerk 3	Southport
Ellin F. Boolukos	Dental Asst	Fishkill	Sharen Biegun	Calculations Clerk 2	Southport
Abby H. Dux	Pharmacist 3	Fishkill	Katherine A. Cohen	Calculations Clerk 2	Sullivan
Boris Dudkin	Plant Util Engr 1	Fishkill	Christian Ambrosini.	Sr Correction Counselor	Sullivan
Faith L. Poth	Secretary 2.	Five Points	Colleen M. Mayoka.	Clerk 2	Summit
Theresa M. White	Secretary 1.	Franklin	David J. Mackey	Head Cook	Ulster
Nathaniel W. Varnum.	Pharmacist 3	Gowanda	Darlene Damms	Keyboard Spec 2.	Ulster
Edward J. Burkhart.	Plant Util Engr 2	Great Meadow	Raymond J. Zyskowski, Jr.	Plant Util Engr 1	Washington
Edward Marra	Dentist 4	Great Meadow	Edward M. Bittle	Voc Instructor 1	Washington
Audrey C. Brooks	Clerk 2	Great Meadow	Ann M. Andzel	Corr Counselor Trainee 1	Wende
James Pagano	Corrl Fac Food Admin 2	Great Meadow	Tracey Tedesco	Nurse 1.	Wende
Charlene F. Lojewski.	Educ Supvr General	Green Haven	John F. Conway	Voc Instructor 3	Willard
Oleksandr Sabov	Plant Utilities Asst	Green Haven	Mary J. Lutz	Library Clerk 2	Willard
Janel M. Gohl	Stores Clerk 2	Greene	Daniel T. O'Connor.	Correction Counselor.	Wyoming
Bonnie L. O'Brien	Supvr Inmate Grv Prg	Groveland	Dale Scalise	Correction Captain	Albion
Lillian E. Kane	Secretary 1.	Groveland	Joseph Kurtzworth	Correction Captain	Gowanda
			Dennis Giglio	Correction Captain	Taconic
			Joseph Vasile	Correction Lieutenant	Arthur Kill

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Jody Johnston Correction Lieutenant Fulton
Timothy Sheedy Correction Lieutenant Fulton
William Allan Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
Leon Lareau Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
David Strzepek Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
Augustus Van Orden Correction Lieutenant Queensboro
Derrick Dalton Correction Lieutenant Taconic
Daniel Oleksiw Correction Lieutenant Sullivan
Michael Reese Correction Lieutenant Sullivan
Robert J. Thayer Correction Sergeant Arthur Kill
Michael Lewis Correction Sergeant Bayview
Darlene Ramsey Correction Sergeant Bayview
William Truax Correction Sergeant Downstate
James Wilkie Correction Sergeant Downstate
Steven Kernozek Correction Sergeant Downstate
James Johnson Correction Sergeant Edgecombe
Mark Lewis Correction Sergeant Edgecombe
Daniel Clancy Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Claude Cavanaugh Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Bruce Dustin Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Daniel Kaczmarek Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Jeffrey P. Sweeney Correction Sergeant Green Haven
Timothy Reed Correction Sergeant Lincoln
Richard Susice Correction Sergeant Lincoln
Reginald Bishop Correction Sergeant Queensboro
Michael S. Leone Correction Sergeant Queensboro
Craig Balcer Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Jeffrey Briggs Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Christopher Havens Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Ricky R. Moench Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
John T. Connors Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Douglas C. Meier Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Peter Reynolds Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Mark F. McCabe Correction Sergeant Sing Sing
Ronald Harmon Correction Sergeant Taconic
Paul J. Olszewski Correction Sergeant Taconic
Jeffrey G. Hyde Correction Sergeant Taconic

Retirements

Gary Bruno Carpenter Altona
Cindy L. Quinn Payroll Clerk 3 Attica
Richard M. Hunter Pharmacist 3 Auburn
James C. Enright Chaplain Auburn
John A. Wade Indus Trng Supvr 2 Auburn
Barbara Spells Nurse 2 Bayview
Dianne A. Raphael Secretary 2 Camp Pharsalia
Robert E. Durham Chaplain Cape Vincent
Kathleen V. Noonan Indus Trng Spvr 2 Clinton
Marita T. Rumph Correction Counselor Clinton
Rita Dennebaum Correction Counselor ASAT Coxsackie
William L. Griffin Dentist 4 Downstate
B M North Teacher 4 Great Meadow
William F. Hutchinson Correction Counselor Green Haven
Neil Karl Correction Counselor Lakeview
Linda Reynolds Secretary 1 Main Office
Judy M. Palmer Asst Dir Financial Admin 2 Main Office

Carlton J. Lane Plant Util Engr 1 Mid-State
Sharman A. Frisino Secretary 1 Main Office
Mary Noeth Principal Acct Clerk Main Office
William A. Martin Motor Vehicle Operator Mt. McGregor
Donna R. Beckwith Keyboard Specialist 1 Mohawk
Cynthia J. Widtman Secretary 2 Mohawk
Martin Rosenberg Clerk 1 NYC Admin
Charles Fuco, Jr. Maintenance Asst Oneida
Rexel Gillespie Head Acct Clerk Queensboro
Thomas A. Bocchi Voc Instructor 4 Washington
Ronald Rushia Head Cook Washington
Eugene F. Brimmer Cook Watertown
Ivan Krajcovic Plant Util Engr 1 Woodbourne
Sheila Snow Correction Counselor Woodbourne
Renzo C. Nylander Dentist 3 Wyoming
Eddy B. Jordan Voc Instructor 4 Wyoming
Henry M. Pautler General Mechanic Wyoming
William Griffin Correction Lieutenant Altona
John Matthews Correction Lieutenant Arthur Kill
Patricia Tillman Correction Lieutenant Hale Creek
Michael Kline Correction Sergeant Butler
Peter Archino Correction Sergeant Greene
George Schreier Correction Sergeant Groveland
Gary Mousseau Correction Sergeant Hudson
Ernest E. Stevens, Jr. Correction Sergeant Mohawk
Tim Cherry Correction Sergeant Sullivan
Lawrence Swartwood Correction Sergeant Ulster
Thomas Hackett Correction Officer Adirondack
Gary R. Follis Correction Officer Adirondack
Dennis M. Harrington Correction Officer Albion
Joseph A. Rabuano Correction Officer Auburn
Kenneth Seymour Correction Officer Arthur Kill
Joseph T. Basto Correction Officer Bare Hill
Robert Glauda Correction Officer Bedford Hills
Gary L. Pettit Correction Officer Cayuga
Todd A. Bailey Correction Officer Clinton
James S. Campbell Correction Officer Clinton
Rusty R. Burnell Correction Officer Clinton
Harold E. Loveless Correction Officer Clinton
Frank K. Robinson Correction Officer Clinton
Marvin D. Rabideau Correction Officer Clinton
Charles F. Magee Correction Officer Collins
Carlton J. Canning Correction Officer Coxsackie
Barbara Macdonald Correction Officer Coxsackie
Murphy G. Boney Correction Officer Downstate
Louis A. Segarra, Jr. Correction Officer Downstate
Warren L. Sutton Correction Officer Eastern
Woodrow D. Jones Correction Officer Eastern
Gary S. Wolf Correction Officer Elmira
Ronald Williams Correction Officer Fishkill
Robert A. Greene Correction Officer Fishkill
Joe S. Ricks, Jr. Correction Officer Franklin
Patrick G. McKernon Correction Officer Great Meadow
Lawrence W. Beecher Correction Officer Great Meadow
Michael R. Perlitz Correction Officer Greene
Douglas D. Kipp Correction Officer Greene

Continued on facing page

Governor's State of the State message ...

Continued from page 2

Last year I set a new goal for our state – to make New York the safest state in America by 2009.

To achieve that goal, we launched Operation IMPACT to concentrate federal, state and local law enforcement on communities in 15 upstate counties experiencing spikes in crime.

I'm pleased to report that Operation IMPACT is delivering as promised – in the last year, murder in our IMPACT communities is down almost 20 percent.

And this year, Rochester, the first IMPACT site, has experienced one third fewer murders, including a 66 percent drop in murders of our most at-risk population – young African-American men.

The “bold, sweeping, fundamental changes” we enacted together have saved lives and made New Yorkers safer. But we can do even more, and we will.

Today, I am proud to announce three new bold initiatives to make New York even safer.

First, we'll launch Operation IMPACT II, which will expand the program within the original IMPACT counties, add 100 more State Troopers to this effort, and bring new IMPACT operations to other parts of the State.

Operation IMPACT has succeeded by concentrating the combined efforts of federal, state and local law enforcement on our highest-crime locations.

Now it's time for another bold step – focusing the combined efforts of these law enforcement agencies on the fugitive felons who've committed the worst crimes in the highest numbers.

Today, we're launching Project SAF-T – Statewide Anti-Fugitive Teams – to track down and capture New York's 100 most dangerous fugitive felons.

These hardened criminals have already committed more than 600 crimes, including murder, rape and armed robbery. Let's focus all our law enforcement resources to flush them out and put them in prison where they belong.

We will leave no stone unturned in this effort.

In fact, we will enlist the help of all New Yorkers by creating the “New York's 100 Most Wanted” program. We'll post their mug shots on a public website and provide them to every police department in New York. When a citizen spots one of these fugitives, they'll be able to make an anonymous tip through a dedicated hotline.

I'm proud that “America's Most Wanted” founder and host John Walsh, a man who knows how valuable the eyes and ears of the public can be in fighting crime, has agreed to include “New York's 100 Most Wanted” in his program that has already landed 818 fugitives behind bars.

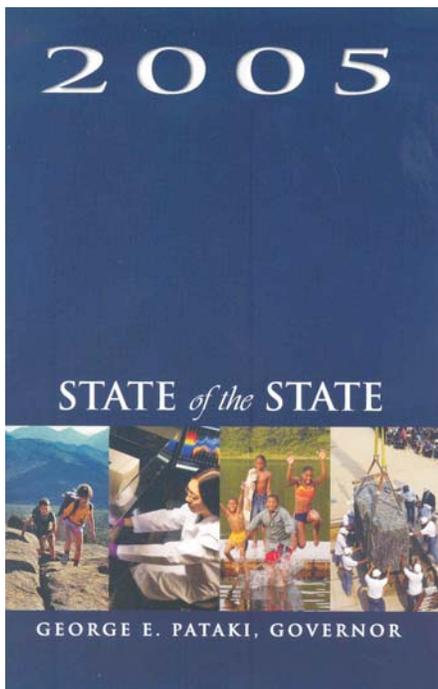
With the attention of the entire law enforcement community and the eyes of all of New Yorkers on them, these fugitive felons won't stand a chance.

As Governor, I can implement these new initiatives on my own, and I will – but we must go further, and for that I will need your help once

again.

This session I will send you an aggressive anti-crime package, dealing with, issues ranging from deadly drivers and gun trafficking to strengthening Megan's Law, and yes – ensuring that our state has a strong death penalty law.

Let's make New York the safest state in America – that must be our goal. 



The cover of the Governor's 36-page 2005 Message to the Legislature.

Continued from facing page

Santiago Lopez	Correction Officer	Green Haven
Norman Murphy	Correction Officer	Groveland
Gary S. Butters	Correction Officer	Groveland
Donald R. Murray	Correction Officer	Marcy
Rutherford M. Betsch	Correction Officer	Mid-Orange
Wayne Durkee	Correction Officer	Mt. McGregor
Dale Smith	Correction Officer	Mt. McGregor
David Robbins	Correction Officer	Monterey
James M. Mathewson	Correction Officer	Oneida
Bryce R. Livermore	Correction Officer	Orleans
John R. Rakfeldt	Correction Officer	Orleans
Peter W. Meier	Correction Officer	Otisville
George O. Cable	Correction Officer	Otisville
Dennis Cestare	Correction Officer	Otisville
Victor Figueroa	Correction Officer	Otisville

John F. Gooding	Correction Officer	Sing Sing
Rayman Hill, Jr.	Correction Officer	Sing Sing
Michael Myers	Correction Officer	Sing Sing
Eddie Wheeler	Correction Officer	Taconic
Thomas L. Graham	Correction Officer	Washington
Donna L. Randall	Correction Officer	Washington
W. Dennis Jasin	Correction Officer	Wende
Christopher J. Chudy	Correction Officer	Wende
Robert Leuthe	Correction Officer	Wende

Deaths

Ruth Lassiter	Keyboard Spec 1	Lincoln
Ralph J. Doktor	Plant Util Engr 1	Wyoming
Mark F. Schlee	Correction Officer	Gowanda
Joseph S. Gizowski	Correction Officer	Lakeview
Daniel Horner	Correction Officer	Marcy
Roberto Ruiz	Correction Officer	Sing Sing 

CO exam scheduled for March 19 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 March 19, 2005.

Completed applications to take the exam must be post-marked no later than January 31, 2005.

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 19,260 in December 2004. The prison population declined by 2.3 percent over the same period, from 66,750 inmates down to 65,197.

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 Officer attrition rate in 2002 – 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 68,156 inmates in 1995 to 568 among 66,050 inmates in 2003. That 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

Individuals interested in taking March'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 on the Department's Website.

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

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. 



Attica COs William Stranahan (left) and Daniel Miller distributed CO exam packets, copies of DOCS/TODAY and other agency materials to Monica Strollo (right) and others who visited the DOCS booth at the Wyoming County Fair last summer.