



## Southport Correctional Facility Celebrates 25 Years October 10, 2013



An aerial picture of Southport C.F taken in the winter of 1988

Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Facilities, Joseph F. Bellnier said, "We must begin by recognizing the contributions of staff, past and present, in making this facility a truly remarkable place. It goes without saying that correctional professionals have a difficult job." Current Superintendent Stephen J. Wenderlich said, "I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the tragic events in May, 1991, when five employees were taken hostage for approximately 26 hours." The Superintendent added, "The staff did not let this incident define them or this facility, instead they moved forward." NYS Senator Thomas O'Mara and former State Senator George Winner also spoke at the luncheon.

In 1988 what was once farmland became the new home of the Chemung Correctional Facility, later renamed Southport Correctional Facility. Recently, almost 300 hundred current and former employees came together to mark the 25 years since the facility opened. The event included a pipe band, honor guard, speeches, and time to reminisce over lunch, all of which was paid for with private donations.



Deputy Commissioner along with current and former Southport Superintendents commemorate the facility's 25th anniversary. l. to r. Ronald Miles-Retired, Eastern C.F. Superintendent Thomas Griffin, Deputy Commissioner for Correctional Facilities Joseph Bellnier, Sullivan C.F. Superintendent Patrick Griffin, Southport Superintendent Stephen Wenderlich, Michael McGinnis-Retired.