



Corrections News

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Director's Message

Recently, joined by DOC Chief of Security Paula Allen, I donned the gear and went through the selection process for the TERT team. Together, we ran a half-mile with the 40-pound weighted vests, climbed five flights of stairs, scaled the six-foot barricade at the Fire Tower at Salem Airport, and each dragged the 150-pound dummy across the parking lot. Next, we went to the range, where we fired the full complement of firearms and munitions, including the sub-machinegun, flash-bang device, and sting ball.

Using these weapons of deadly force emphasizes the dangers faced by our staff every day. We are prepared for the worst. It is reassuring that if an incident requiring deadly force does occur, our TERT teams are well trained and ready to take the necessary action.

The most amazing part, however, is how seldom our weapons are needed. It is the daily interaction between our staff and our inmates that prevent the types of incidents that would require deadly force. This is why we are so adamant that people refer to our security staff as correctional officers and not as "guards." Our officers and other staff do so much more every day that simply watch over the inmates.

My thanks go to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility TERT team leader John Lewis and members Ryan Jordan, Kenny Pohlschneider, Shawna Bronson, Luke Harry and the others who took the time to show the new director a little of what our TERT teams do.

Warm regards,

Max Williams
Director

New DPSST Academy Breaks Ground June 30

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) broke ground on their new Oregon Public Safety Academy on June 30. The DOC will soon have a partner public safety agency as a new neighbor. The 213-acre site is at 4100 Aumsville Highway in Salem, near Santiam Correctional Institution. Construction of the new DPSST facility is being overseen by former DOC New Construction Administrator Richard Ross.

Now located in Monmouth, DPSST provides basic training for all of Oregon's police, corrections, parole and probation officers and 9-1-1 dispatchers. It also certifies and provides ongoing and specialized training for criminal justice professionals and firefighters.

The new academy is scheduled to open in October 2006. You can view a site map on the DPSST Web site at: www.dpsst.state.or.us/facility/May2004.pdf.

Warner Creek Underway and On Schedule

Warner Creek Correctional Facility is well underway in Lakeview. According to New Prison Construction Administrator Doug Young, things are going well and on schedule, with concrete and electrical work a top priority. DOC Director Max Williams is scheduled for a mid-July trip to Warner Creek to tour the site and meet with staff and local officials.

Oregon Corrections Plan: One Month and Rolling

A month ago, the DOC took the Oregon Corrections Plan (OCP) statewide to include the stock inmate population. The conversion from the Inmate Incarceration and Transition Plan (IITP) is already helping DOC staff match inmates to the correct facilities and programs and to have universal wait lists for the various programs offered by the department.

Overall, the conversion went well. As with any new system, once people really start using it, you find problems; project leaders Don Grossnickle and Larry Hildebrant have been diligently working to solve them.

"The number of problem calls and e-mails really dropped off after the first couple of weeks," says project leader Don Grossnickle. "We expected a number of challenges would arise as soon as people really started using the system, and we have resolved most of them already... thanks to everyone for their willingness to dive into the OCP and for being patient with the process."

Oregon Corrections Emergency Preparedness System

Flexibility, cost-savings and effectiveness were just a few of the reasons the DOC developed its own Oregon Corrections Emergency Preparedness System. Changes to the Emergency Preparedness system are a part of the department's commitment to readiness, with an emphasis on improved coordination between emergency preparedness, security threat group management and tactical response. First and foremost, that means an integrated system that reflects Oregon's experience and expertise while maximizing prudent use of scarce resources.

All DOC staff are being trained on the new system in the 2004 In-service classes. According to SRCI Security Manager Sonny Rider, the new training program challenges staff to become more-effective commanders, leaders and communicators. The new emergency manuals are easier to use, with checklists and forms to reflect the DOC's new Strategic System.

"The new Emergency Preparedness System builds on solid past practices," concludes DOC Security Chief Paula Allen. "We've refined our approach to emergencies, with improved response and follow-

up.” Watch for more about the new system in coming issues of *Corrections News Online* or contact Ms. Allen at (503) 945-0955 or by e-mail: paula.allen@state.or.us.

OAM Update: Coffee Creek Even Start Program

The Coffee Creek Even Start program fits well with the goals of the Oregon Accountability Model. Even Start seeks to first teach the parents and then to reach their children. Through family literacy programs, activities inside CCCF provide the means for important bonding that otherwise wouldn't happen between an incarcerated mother and her child. The goal is to help break the intergenerational cycle of criminality.

The Even Start family literacy program at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility is the nation's first and remains the only Even Start in a correctional institution. It began in 2003 to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy through improving educational opportunities for families. CCCF's Even Start combines adult literacy, parenting education and early childhood education.

To qualify, the inmate mothers must attend adult education or work-based education programs. They also must participate in the Parenting Inside/Out classes and Even Start Parent Time classes and workshops. Actively involved with their children's educations, the mothers receive regular progress reports and participate in parent-teacher conferences by telephone. Participating inmate mothers and their children attend school together twice a month in an early childhood education classroom inside the facility.

The mother-child activities vary, and most often are education based. Recently, the children planted a family garden at CCCF with their mothers, which involved learning about plants, insects, weather, data collection and seasonal cycles. The children also can check out books from an on-site collection to read; prizes are awarded to children who complete five book reports. The program also has a book club where the inmates read and discuss literature provided by Even Start.

About the Even Head Start Staff

- Director of Corrections Education for Portland Community College Julie Kopet oversees CCCF's Even Start Program and its federal grant.
- Jessica Katz coordinates the program. She holds a master's degree in social work from Columbia University and has 12 years' experience working with parents and children in crisis. She enrolls women in the program, facilitates caregiver and parent meetings, coordinates with schools, and coordinates transition meetings to further support the family and children.
- Family Advocate and Early Childhood Educator Kerry Sessler holds a master's degree in women's studies. She previously worked in Ireland with homeless mothers and children to secure housing and teach self-sufficiency skills. She has 24 years' experience working with severely emotionally disturbed and learning disabled children. She teaches the "Parent and Child Time," conducts home visits with the custodial families, and coordinates school conferences that include inmate mothers.

Darcey Baker Joins Parole Board

On June 24, the Oregon Senate confirmed Darcey Baker to a four-year term on the three-member Board of Parole and Post Prison Supervision. Ms. Baker brings with her a wealth of parole and probation experience. She worked for Clackamas County Community Corrections for 25 years. She is a recognized leader in sex offender notification issues, and served on the legislative committee that addressed locating predatory and sexually violent offenders in the community.

E-mail Spam Filters Improve

While no filter can block every unwanted e-mail and still let the good ones through, the Information Systems and Services Division (ISSD) is coming much closer. The program vendor is continually upgrading to keep a step ahead of spammers.

After the most recent upgrade, users will notice a slightly different look in the "Junk Box" summaries they receive every four hours. Users still have the ability to "Un-junk" any mail they want to keep, and "view" any mail they are unsure of before un-junking. Users also have a new feature under the "View" option called "See all my junk." This link allows users to view everything in their Junk Boxes. As before, all mail stored in a Junk Box remains for 15 days and is then automatically deleted.

For more information, contact ISSD Exchange Administrator Laurie Sappe by e-mail: laurie.a.sappe@state.or.us.

More News...

- **Welcome to DOC's new Chief Psychiatrist Daryl Ruthvend, M.D.** Dr. Ruthvend graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine and completed his residency at Oregon Health Sciences University. Following service at the Veterans' Administration, in 1993 he opened a private practice in Salem. Dr. Ruthvend served the DOC as a consultant since 1998, and joined the staff full time on July 1. He succeeds Dr. Marvin Fickle, who recently left the DOC to become superintendent of Oregon State Hospital.
- **Watch for new 24-hour school zones around the state.** The new law goes into effect July 1, and requires 20 m.p.h. speeds in certain school zones regardless of flashing lights or the presence of children. New signs will govern the various types of school zones defined in the bill. So, whether driving a state vehicle or your own, be sure to follow the directions on the signs to avoid both endangering children and the steep new fines for violations.
- **The US Bureau of Justice Statistics publication: "State Prison Expenditures, 2001"** presents comparative data on the cost of operating the nation's state prisons including state-level spending on prison employee salaries and wages, supplies, food, inmate medical care, utilities, contractual services, and capital expenditures (building construction, renovations, major repairs, and land purchases). In total, states report spending 29.5 billion on prisons in fiscal year 2001. The report is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/spe01.htm>.

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DOC Corrections News
Oregon Department of Corrections
Max Williams, Director
Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

For more information or to submit story ideas, please call Nancy Sellers in the DOC Public Affairs Office at (503) 945-9225 or e-mail: nancy.sellers@state.or.us.

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