



Commissioner's CORNER

"To Protect the Public by Incarcerating and Supervising Offenders"

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COMMISSIONER, DOC



A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT
Alaska Department of Corrections
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WELCOME TO THE COMMISSIONER'S CORNER:

Thanks for continuing to check in with this column. If you have ideas, issues or suggestions from institutions or field offices for the Commissioner's Corner, please submit them to richard.schmitz@alaska.gov



The visitor's entrance to the Ketchikan Correctional Center reveals Christmas lights and a tree just before sunrise on a clear, cold day in the First City on southern edge of Alaska's panhandle. Photo by Sgt. Carl Thompson, records officer for KCC.

SCHMIDT, BRANDENBURG TAKE ON FITNESS CHALLENGE:

Texas Governor Rick Perry challenged governors across the nation to participate in the "[Capital Steps Fitness Challenge](#)" which will run January 1-15. At the end, the sponsor will declare the Most Fit Governor's Team in the nation. Commissioner Joe Schmidt and Deputy Director Brian Brandenburg are on the Governor's team, and will be wearing a pedometer during that 2-week stretch. Look for more information as the Challenge progresses.

HOLIDAY GENEROCITY MARKS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Each year, Department of Corrections staff proves generous and creative in terms of giving to the community during the Christmas season. Here's a roundup of some of the efforts:



Above ... Staff at the **Juneau Central Office** – from left: Melinda Bugayong, Leslie Houston, Erin Haida, Dianne Godkin, Lacey Sanders and Cyndi Brown, stand behind food collected for Juneau's homeless shelter. JCO staff donated over 300 nonperishable food items for the shelter's use in preparing box dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

At **Wildwood Correctional Center**, the Kenai Salvation Army completed their annual toy distribution for the children and grandchildren of inmates. This year 61 inmates took part in the program. After selecting a toy, the Salvation Army packages it and mails it along with a card made by the inmate.





This year **Point Mackenzie Correctional Farm** donated over 50,000 pounds of potatoes to the Food Bank of Alaska. Above: Food Service leads Clark Perry (outer left) and Mike Gordon (outer right) stand with Lt. Bernie Kohut (left) and Betty Prentiss of the food bank (right) as frozen turkeys and other produce are loaded for use this holiday season. Some of the turkeys are going to the Palmer Senior Center for Christmas dinner. In addition, the correctional farm is donating pigs to Houston Middle School and Colony High School for 4H programs, Lt. Kohut said.



For the second year, inmates at **Palmer Correctional Center** Medium Facility have funded and participated in a community care program that makes handcrafted blankets, hats, scarves, and bears for our communities. (See above.) Many inmates tap into their artistic talents, while others discover new aptitudes for the first time. Through their commitment, dedication, and efforts these individuals are displaying compassion, caring, and kindness for others, which are integral positive changes for self-improvement.

The inmates' goal was to crochet coverlets and other items for Christmas donations to local charitable organizations, explained Superintendent Cindy Betts. Aside from the necessary time that individuals commit to construct these items, each inmate creates, designs and chooses the color scheme of every custom handcrafted article. The final tally: 615 hats, 83 blankets, 35 scarves and seven toy bears.

The Palmer Correctional Center offers other opportunities for educational and vocational curriculums that inmates can use in the workforce, but this unique crochet community program provides inmates with innovative skills which can be used in their own homes. The Palmer Correctional Center's aim is to provide positive outlets for inmates to continue to give back to our communities while learning new skills and qualities.



Inmates at Hiland **Mountain Correctional Center** selected the villages of Koyuk and Gakona as beneficiaries of their annual “Adopt A Village” fund-raising drive. This year, inmates crocheted approximately 500 quilts, hats, scarves and slippers for the fund-raising drive.

CO ACADEMY 108 GRADUATES 24 – FIRST WITH TASER TRAINING:



24 Correctional Officers graduated from Academy 108 at the Palmer Depot November 7, 2008. The officers represented seven different

institutions. Commissioner Joe Schmidt and Director of Institutions Garland Armstrong were the guest speakers. Deputy Director Bryan Brandenburg administered the Oath of Office. Chaplain Mike Ensich gave the invocation. CO I Ian Losby from the Anchorage Correctional Complex gave the class speech and CO I Kevin Nushart from Spring Creek Correctional Center read the Code of Ethics. CO I Kristine Bailie from Wildwood Correctional Center won the Academic Award. This class had the distinction of being the first Correctional Officer Academy to have Taser training.

CORRECTIONS STAFF GRADUATES FROM LEADERSHIP ACADEMY:

Department employees from all three divisions graduated from a 10-month [National Institute of Corrections / Management Development for the Future program](#). The program included three 24-hour classroom sessions, online 360-degree feedback leadership assessments and the development of personal leadership development plans. Participants included: Lt. Donald Barnhardt; PO III Jason Brown; PO III Jill Bunting; Lt. Donald Carlon; PO III Kelly Cravens; CO III Denise Denato; PO III Bill Eblen; PO III Ruben Foster; PO III Sharon Frascati; Superintendent Diane Gregory; Assistant Superintendent Robert Jeffords; Lt. Robert Knotts; Sgt. Robert Larson; PO III Jessica Mathews; PO III Shannon McCloud; Lt. Robyn Parra; Food Service Lead Clark Perry; Lt. Cory Pianko; Lt. Tim Routen; PO III Rex Spofford; PO IV Keith Thayer; PO III Dan Traxinger; Admin. Manager Jamie Walker; and CO III Jake Wyckoff.

APPRENTICE-BUILT HOUSE 8 OPENS AT PALMER MEDIUM:



The first of three 19-bed housing units has opened at Palmer Medium. The units were constructed with the help of inmate construction apprentices. The second of the units will open January 1, with the third unit set to open a month after that. The units will be used in part of offset population increases at the Anchorage Correctional Complex. (Photos: Left, Supt. Cindy Betts gives a final look to one the two-bunk rooms; Below: the common area of House 8.



368 INMATES SUCCESSFUL IN EARNING ABE CERTIFICATES:

At Hiland Mountain Correctional Center, 101 inmates graduated from Adult Basic Education in the past year. In a memo, Superintendent Dean Marshall praised Education Coordinator Karen Jenkins for an outstanding job “even when the facility was down one Education Coordinator.” The Anchorage Complex had 89 graduations, Wildwood 53, Lemon Creek 29, Yukon-Kuskokowim and Spring Creek 24 each, and Fairbanks 21.

BRIEF NOTES:

■ Spring Creek Correctional Center announced the promotion of Correctional Officer II **David Joslin** to the rank of Correctional Officer III. Sgt. Joslin began his career with the department in January 2005 after retiring from the United States Air Force where he served as a Senior Master Sergeant and Flight Engineer for over 27 years. While at Spring Creek Correctional Center Officer Joslin, in addition to his regular duties, has performed the additional responsibilities as a Prisoner Transportation Officer, Field Training Officer, and Range Officer. He has effectively worked all posts within the institution and has gained his peer's confidence that he will be a positive contributor to the institution's leadership staff.

■ Correctional Officer **David Talbert** received an Outstanding Service award at a ceremony marking outstanding community members at the Palmer Elks' annual Public Safety recognition banquet in October.

■ Spring Creek Correctional Center announced the promotion of Sgt. **Bob Lockeby** to Administrative Lieutenant, effective December 22. "Lt. Lockeby has demonstrated sound correctional practices and leadership skills since starting at SCCC in July of 2001," said Superintendent Craig Turnbull. "Lt. Lockeby has been a great contributor in the Department's mission to date and it is expected that his promotion will enable him to achieve an even greater success in the future."

■ Correctional Officer **David Henderson** has been promoted to Lieutenant, as of December 29, and will serve as Operations Supervisor at Ketchikan Correctional Center. Lt. Henderson started his career at KCC 19 years ago. He has been a shift supervisor for five years and has been Institutional Training Officer for almost as long. He has experience as a Records Sgt., PTO, and a Special Projects Officer. Superintendent Diane Gregory credited Lt. Henderson's operations knowledge as key to KCC gaining ACA accreditation.