



JOE SCHMIDT
COMMISSIONER, DOC

Commissioner's CORNER

"Enhancing the Safety of Our Communities, Providing Secure Confinement,
Reformative Programs, and a Process of Supervised Community Reintegration"



A report by COMMISSIONER JOE SCHMIDT
Alaska Department of Corrections
November 26, 2007

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@correct.state.ak.us or call 465 4640.



2007 SHARE CAMPAIGN OFF AND RUNNING: This year, Governor Sarah Palin (above, signing her SHARE pledge form) has asked our department to take the lead in coordinating the 2007 SHARE CAMPAIGN. I have proudly accepted the challenge. The annual SHARE

campaign is an opportunity to give. It's not going to be for everyone. Many of us already give to the community by donation or contribution of time and/or skill.

This year agencies which stand to benefit have held their administrative costs to 27 percent or less. This year's goal is not monetary – rather we have set a participation goal. Last year about \$470,000 was raised and the participation rate was close to 14 percent. This year we hope to have at least 15 percent participation. The SHARE web site can be found [here](#).

EDUCATION COORDINATORS SHARE SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES:

DOC Education Coordinators met Sept. 24-28 in Anchorage to listen to various speakers and exchange ideas. Commissioner Joe Schmidt welcomed the group and spoke of the direction the Department is heading. The rest of the week was filled with speakers from DOC, DOL, UAA, and other outside agencies. Some of the topics were procurement, infectious diseases, sex offender treatment, boundaries of education and therapy, criminal thinking errors, grants, the budget process, ABE & GED training, and education and recidivism.

A main source of information sharing during the week proved to be their own presentations; the Coordinators shared with each other their successes and as well as challenges they had encountered during the year. Deputy Commissioner Sam Edwards closed the conference by speaking with the Education Coordinators and answering their questions.



Standing left to right: Robert Bailey, Education Associate; Anna Herzberger, Criminal Justice Planner; Education Coordinators: Lloyd Steward, WCC; Randy Knopik, SCCC, Candace Weldy, LCCC, Lorrel Ludy, WCC; Howard Appel, AMCC; Mimi Yeager, ACC West; Fred Quaille, FCC; Andra Early, LCCC; Paul Kroenung, PCC Minimum; Dana

Overfelt, PMCF; Tom Lahey, ACC East; Karen Jenkins, HMCC; Jim Kalek, PCC Medium; Susan Taylor, YKCC; Kirstie Willean, SCCC; Elaine Stiefel, ACO Administrative Assistant; Sherry Appel, SCCC; Xiao Nan Tatsuda, KCC; **Sitting left to right:** Education Coordinators: Mark Newell, PCC Medium; R.C. Fisher, HMCC; Kaye Saxon, MSPT

COMMISSIONER HONORS ALASKA VETERANS AT CEREMONY:



Commissioner Joe Schmidt represents Governor Palin at a Wasilla ceremony marking Veterans Day:

Brief remarks recognize the need to care for homeless veterans, some of whom become incarcerated due to struggles with substance abuse and addictions.

PRISON EXPANSION ON TRACK IN PALMER, BETHEL, SEWARD: The Department of Corrections is finalizing agreements with local governments in Bethel, Seward and the Mat-Su Borough in order to begin Phase 2 expansion under the process set out in (2004) Senate Bill 65.

Under this bill there is a four-part process. First, local governments must pass a resolution empowering the city or Borough manager to enter into a lease purchase with the State. Second, the operating agreement is signed. Third, bonds are sold, and, four, construction begins. At this point, Seward, Bethel and the Mat Su Borough have all passed resolutions. We expect to present draft operating agreements to these three communities shortly.

Expansion includes a 1,260-1,400 bed correctional center at Point Mackenzie, a 66-bed expansion and renovation at Bethel and a new 144-bed unit at Spring Creek Correctional Center in Seward. Construction could begin as early as the 2008 season. An 80-bed expansion at Fairbanks Correctional Center is under review by the Fairbanks City Council. In the Mat-Su, the Phase 2 plan picks up where a proposed

2,200-bed “mega prison” had been shelved because of high construction costs.

The department is also moving forward with Phase 1 expansion, which includes three 20-bed temporary housing units at Palmer Correctional Center and one such unit at Seward; a 80-bed remodel at Wildwood Correctional Center in Kenai and 37-bed remodel at Fairbanks.

‘ROCK OF THE BUDGET UNIT’ RECOGNIZED FOR 25 YEARS:



Honored for 25 years service: Budget and Finance Manager Laura Lynk receives a 25-year service plaque from Commissioner Joe Schmidt. Laura began her state service in the finance office. Right: Executive Secretary Erin Haida.

2006 OFFENDER PROFILE POSTED ON LINE: The 2006 Offender Profile is now online, and includes data from 2004, 2005 and 2006. The previous profile was posted in 2003, and included data from 2002. The profile, in .pdf form can be found [HERE](#).

The 67-page 2006 Offender Profile includes demographic information on offenders incarcerated in Alaska, in out-of-state facilities, and in Community Residential Centers (CRCs). The profile includes statistics which focus on sex offenders, repeat and long-term offenders, and social groups such as seniors, juveniles and Alaska Natives. Other sections include trends and probation and parole.