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MDOC HOLDS FIRST SECURITY THREAT GROUP CONFERENCE

Security Threat Group (STG) Coordinators from every correctional facility and select parole/probation agents attended the 1st annual Security Threat Group Conference held at the Ralph A. MacMullen Center located in Higgins Lake, Michigan.

Correctional Facilities Administration (CFA) Emergency Management Section Manager Brent Travelbee coordinated the conference/workshop to review and make recommendations to the current STG process and management of STG designated offenders. Inspector Larry Brown from the Carson City Correctional Facility also provided assistance preparing for and presenting during the conference.



Brent Travelbee indicated he sees potential for positive changes within the Department and in how it handles and responds to security threats, "With all the changes our Department has experienced over the past few years, it is imperative we review and improve our management of offenders in relation to Security Threat Groups. We have fewer resources, technology has improved and there is a growing need for information sharing. We need real-time, accurate information we can share with those with a need for that information. Shared information becomes actionable intelligence."

Representatives from the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC) presented an overview of the MIOC and provided an avenue to access information sharing portals for the coordinators and agents to assist with gang identification and structure. A representative from the Federal Bureau of Investigation presented information on the Terrorist Screening Center, E-Guardian and Law Enforcement Online.

Additional guest speakers included CFA Special Activities Manager Mike Martin and CFA Classification Specialist Brad Haynie. CFA Deputy Director Tom Finco, Operations Support Administration Deputy Director Randy Treacher and CFA Operations Administrator Edward Mize were guest speakers. They relayed the importance of effective management of STG offenders and thanked everyone for the jobs they do. They also allowed time for a question and answer session.

Among the topics of the conference were STG Policy and form revisions, processing STG documentation, available resources and creation of an electronic system to process and share information.

Those attending the conference said it was great opportunity to network and be part of the process as it moves forward.



F.Y.I. is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Please submit articles through your supervisor to John Cordell at cordellj@michigan.gov



HELP SUPPORT MDOC EMPLOYEES ON ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The United States Military continues protecting our freedoms throughout the world in both stable countries and in war zones like Afghanistan. With Veteran's Day behind us and many people thinking about the holidays, please take a moment to think about our military men and women who are stationed abroad.



Did you know that the Michigan Department of Corrections has nearly 2,500 employees who are either military veterans or who are currently employed by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. They account for about 17% of our total workforce. The Department also has 46 employees who are currently on active duty with the U.S. military, serving in various military classifications throughout the world.

To brighten their holiday spirits, you can support them with a care package filled with all sorts of needed (and wanted) items to help them through their deployment. Visit the following link for a variety of organizations that send care packages:

<http://www.ourmilitary.mil/care-packages/>



If you know an employee who is currently on active duty and would like to send a care package specifically to that person, please contact your warden, FOA or OSA administrator for mailing information.

The Michigan Department of Corrections has a long tradition of hiring and supporting military personnel. We are proud of the role they play both within our organization and as defenders of our freedoms. Take a moment to recognize them and show your support by sending them something special this holiday season.

DEPARTMENTAL COST-SAVING SOLUTIONS ARE IN NEED

If you have a cost-saving idea, or a way to do something with greater efficiency that will result in cost-savings, please submit the idea to John Cordell in the Office of Public Information and Communications at: cordellj@michigan.gov.

The Department is again tasked with becoming leaner in order to meet this year's budgetary constraints. There have been some great ideas submitted so far. Thank you for helping find ways to contain costs while operating safely and protecting Michigan's citizens.





HARVEST GATHERING HELPS FILL FOOD BANKS

2011 Harvest Gathering totals are in! MDOC staff have again generously contributed to Michigan's food bank network and local food banks. We provided approximately 6,000 food and personal items and almost \$10,000 (not including online donations) to the Michigan Food Bank Council and local community food providers.

More than 50 Department locations participated in the MDOC Food Fight and/or provided information regarding their Harvest Gathering accomplishments. Points accrue for each general food item (10 points) or each special food, personal item or dollar (20 points).

Six offices donated items and/or money to earn between 200 and 800 points per person: Berrien and Van Buren County Parole offices and Shiawassee, Cass and Branch County Probation and Parole offices. Multiple locations donated \$400 or more, including Thumb, Saginaw, Ojibway, Macomb, Cooper Street, Chippewa and Bellamy Creek correctional facilities, as well as Central Office and Berrien County Parole.

Fund-raising Activities

MDOC Harvest Gathering Coordinators enthusiastically encouraged participation through a variety of activities. Staff at multiple locations paid between \$1 and \$4 dollars per day to participate in casual/jeans days. Cooper Street staff donated \$4 to participate in each casual day; Chippewa staff donated \$20 or a \$20 bag of groceries to dress casual for the two weeks of the campaign. Bake sales and special lunch events were held throughout the Department, including chili/soup lunches, a cookout and several potlucks. Other incentives included competition between supervisors or sections.



Troy Probation

A silent auction was supplied with items donated by staff. Some of the most popular items included items provided by MSI. These included a cutting board, an American flag and available to the public including license plate clocks and coasters (www.michigan.gov/msi).



Pugsley Correctional Facility

This year the fight implemented a division system, similar to boxing divisions. Based on historical Food Fight points averages, it was apparent that points-per-person is still a reasonable measure, but the number of employees has a direct correlation with the point range averages achievable by various locations. In order to ensure more equitable competition, locations are now competing within a range of number of employees.

Central Office (Middleweight) earned 131.3 points per person but was not included in the food fight totals. The work environment differs from the other competitors in the division in that all employees work the same shift and are available to simultaneously attend building-wide functions.



Outer District Parole Office

Travelling Food Fight trophies will be awarded for each Division Champ as based on the points-per-person score listed on the chart on page 4:



Final Count	Bantamweight 0-20 employees	Featherweight 21-99 employees	Middleweight 100- 399 employees	Heavyweight 400+ employees
Champs	Berrien County Parole 727.5	Outer District Parole 113.7	Thumb Correctional Facility 89.6	Gus Harrison Correctional Facility
Contenders	Shiawassee County Parole/ Probation	Tuscola Residential Reentry	Saginaw Correctional Facility 61.2	Chippewa Correctional Facility
	Cass County Parole/Probation 381.4	Oakland County Probation: Troy 86.7	Ojibway Correctional Facility 58.6	G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility 16

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Harvest Gathering and congratulations to the contest winners. We all know the real winners are those in need who will be helped this winter by the generous donations of our employees to food banks throughout Michigan.



Gus Harrison Correctional Facility

MDOC BUILDS FURNITURE FOR ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK CABINS

Saginaw Correctional Facility recently built furniture, including bunk beds and counter-tables for new cabins installed on Isle Royale by the National Park Service. In an e-mail from the park service, they said, "We completed the cabins last week and they will be ready for use next operating season. The beds and tables you provided really complement the interior of our cabins. Your assistance with this project saved us valuable time and funding. Thank you again for your help and we look forward to working with you in the future."

This collaborative effort saved money for the park service while enhancing Isle Royale National Park, one of Michigan's recreational crown jewels.





DONATIONS HELP DELIVER A THANKSGIVING MEAL

Staff at the St. Louis Correctional Facility donated \$339 in cash and 12 boxes of non-perishable goods to the Alma Presbyterian Church. Staff at the church were extremely happy and grateful for the donation. The food was added to the church community food bank and the money was used to buy turkeys for their annual community Thanksgiving meal.



PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

ST. LOUIS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY HELPS DEFRAY EXPENSES FOR ARUS' GRANDSON

Staff at the St. Louis Correctional Facility and the Central Michigan Correctional Facility recently presented Gavyn's parents, Kurt and Kristina, with \$2,300 to help cover medical expenses. The money was raised from a bake sale, a casual day and pop bottle collection. Three-year-old Gavyn, the grandson of ARUS Jim Hogan of the St. Louis Correctional Facility, was recently diagnosed with cancer that has spread to various parts of his body and is receiving treatment to combat the tumors. When he was 18-months-old, Gavyn survived a type of kidney cancer that only has a 25% survival rate. His parents and everyone involved with the little guy are extremely hopeful he will overcome this bout with cancer as well.



L to R: Warden Steve Rivard, Mary Jo Winans (who coordinated raising the money), Kurt Hug, Gavyn Hug, Kristina Hug and ARUS Jim Hogan.

ARU WORKS WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO NAB DANGEROUS CRIMINAL

On August 1, 2011 a parolee was involved in an incident in Lansing where he stabbed and slashed 2 people. This assault resulted in the parolee being charged with *Assault With Intent to Murder*. The Absconder Recovery Unit (ARU) worked with Lansing Police, the Michigan State Police (MSP) Fugitive Team and the United States Marshals Service (USMS) in a search for the parolee but were having little success.

In October, Field Agent Lisa Budreau received some information that the parolee, who used a very distinguishing nickname, may be in the Saginaw or Midland area. Further investigation by Agent Budreau determined that this may be the parolee ARU

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“SNOW-BABIES” PROGRAM HELPS LOCAL CHILDREN WHO LACK COLD WEATHER GEAR

Officer Pam Drew (*pictured at right*) from Carson City Correctional Facility started the “Snow-babies” campaign because she learned of a need in the community. The following is Pam’s story about the Snow-babies campaign. :



“I think this is either my 6th or 7th year of doing this. I was talking with a couple of teacher’s aides one day at a local school when we began discussing how some kids are sent to school from home or come to school from home without coats or winter items. Without cold weather gear, the schools can not let them outside to play during recess. One aide said that she has tried collecting items through yard sales or left items at school so they are on hand for this type of issue. Snow-babies was born from that conversation. I thought, “Hey, a lot of us have coats, boots, scarves, snow-pants/suits that our children have grown out of and maybe we could do a collection to give to the elementary schools in the area.” I talked to the Warden at the time, Kurt Jones, and got permission to have the collection on grounds. Usually every October to November the collection is set up. I then check over the items and make sure they are in good, clean condition or new. I then alternate schools in the area and take the items up to the schools to utilize for kids without. Sometimes it remains in the schools for use and sometimes when they know the children have none, the items are donated to the child.

“When other items are donated such as a baby item or adult item that can not be utilized at the school, I take those items to the baby pantries in the area or homeless shelters.”

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

JCF LIGHT-HEARTED “HOOFERS FOR HOOTERS” BAKE SALE IS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Hoofers for Healthy Hooters held a bake sale at G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility on September 29, 2011 in support of the American Cancer Society - “*Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*” program. The bake sale made over \$1,200. Team members included Vernice Anderson, Judy Clark, Jackie Cooke, Corby DeForest, Jenny Engstrom, Betsy Powell, Stacy Purdy, Ryanne Strouth, and Roxanne Strouth. *Making Strides* focuses efforts on eradicating breast cancer through walking events and individual and team donations. Overall community support has helped the Jackson area has raise over \$35,000 this year and the Lansing area raise over \$250,000 in support of the cause.





REENTRY ROUNDTABLE

Reentry Roundtable is a continuing column that provides news, facts, and program successes within the prisoner reentry program.

Genesee Prisoner Reentry and New Paths Partnership Leads to Parolee Success

Genesee County and the city of Flint have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state of Michigan. As a result of this dire economic environment, Flint and Genesee County are overwhelmed with blighted and abandoned properties. Recent reports indicate that the city of Flint has more than 10,000 abandoned houses. These vacant properties are magnets for crime and symbols of decay in our community. As a result, these distressed properties have contributed greatly to urban decline in Flint and Genesee County. However, Flint and Genesee County are employing new tools to combat this decline, and the Genesee Region Prisoner Reentry is part of the positive effort.

New Paths, Inc. was formed in Flint in 1979. New Paths is a Community Corrections Program which serves as an alternative to jail for adult non-violent offenders. Residents of New Paths, Inc. adhere to individualized case management plans, participate in substance abuse therapy or prevention classes, and attend educational and Cognitive Therapy classes. Work release is permitted at approved work sites, as is participation in job training programs. New Paths, Inc. has relationships with over 60 community agencies that provide services to residents.

In 2009, New Paths, Inc. received federal grant funds through the Flint Downtown District Weed & Seed. This program allowed for paid employment for 200 New Paths residents. The program emphasized job training and employment in the area of vacant site maintenance, minor home repair, and landscaping in partnership with the

Genesee County Land Bank. The Genesee County Land Bank was formed in 2004 by Genesee County. The Land Bank's mission is to restore value to the community by acquiring, developing and selling vacant and abandoned properties in cooperation with stakeholders who value responsible land ownership. The Land Bank owns more than 5,000 properties, many of them in Flint and most of them in need of cleanup, boarding and repair.

James Hudgens is the Executive Director of New Paths, Inc. James has significant experience in community corrections and engaging other area non-profits. James' experience is exactly what started the partnership with the Genesee County Land Bank. James described the program as "a chance to revitalize the community while allowing for restorative justice."

In 2011, New Paths, Inc. received a Prisoner Reentry Workforce Development contract for Genesee Region Prisoner Reentry. The goal of this program was to obtain permanent employment or further the educational skills of participants.

Prisoner Reentry participants are assessed and participate in job readiness classes and one-on-one job development sessions. Once a participant has completed the job readiness component, they are then interviewed by New Paths for Temporary Work Experience, which is leveraged through Prisoner Reentry and New Paths Weed & Seed Programs. The program affords transitional employment while teaching marketable skills that will result in jobs for participating returnees after their paid job training ends.

REENTRY (Continued on page 8)

Prisoner Reentry



**REENTRY** (Continued from page 7)

The 2011 partnership between Genesee Region Prisoner Reentry and New Paths, Inc. for Prisoner Reentry Workforce Development has been a success. Thus far the majority of Prisoner Reentry participants are continuing their employment after Prisoner Reentry program participation. Not only are returning offenders asking to be referred to this opportunity, they are actively seeking it. Evidence shows that when a returning offender is not engaged in positive activity upon their release they are more likely to violate and return back to prison. The focus of Genesee County is not just to engage a returning offender in a service upon release, but rather partner with a service provider that is going to commit to keep the returning offender engaged in work.

In looking at returning offenders, there are many that want to find employment to support their family just like you and me. The returning offender needs assistance in soft and hard skills to get to that outcome. Hudgens stated that “they are getting released either way but it is our job as a community to collaborate for the greater good. Under the previous way of releasing offenders there was little to no realistic employment assistance offered. Prisoner Reentry has helped us reduce the revolving door that plagues our Corrections system. We must give these offenders every opportunity to become a productive member of society.”

Genesee Prisoner Reentry Community Coordinator Marlene Collick submitted this success story.

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was looking for. She relayed that information to Lt. Charles Levens of the ARU. Over the next few weeks she developed more information and a possible location on where the fugitive parolee may be living.

From November 17 through November 22, the ARU and MSP 3rd District Fugitive Team conducted surveillance on a possible but unconfirmed address in the city of Midland.



On November 22, officers observed a person fitting the parolee’s description exit the residence. As officers approached to identify the parolee, he fled on foot. After a brief foot-chase, he was taken into custody without incident and positively identified. He was turned over to the USMS Lansing Area Fugitive Task Force (which includes the Lansing area ARU).

Without Agent Budreau’s efforts to gather more information and Lt. Levens’ determination to find this parolee, he would still be on the loose. Their efforts, and those of their collaborative team members, took a dangerous felon off of the streets. Nice work!

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM F.Y.I.

The holidays are a time spent with those we love and care about. They are a time of reflection, faith, giving and sharing. For many of our staff, the Holidays are also spent on the job, in the career they have chosen keeping Michigan’s citizens safe.

No matter what your duties are within the Department, please take a moment to recognize the job that each of our employees do and the sacrifices they make, especially during this season when many of them are heading into work while their loved ones head to holiday gatherings. So no matter when or where you celebrate this season, please have a safe and joyous holiday with those you care about most.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!