



MSI FACTORY TOUR IMPRESSES JAPANESE AUTO COUNCIL

The Japanese National Automobile License Plate Council toured Parr Highway Correctional Facility's (ATF) license plate factory on September 10, 2008. The factory, operated and supervised by Michigan State Industries employees and staffed with prisoner workers from ATF, makes license plates for all Michigan motor vehicles and trailers, including a variety of specialty plates. Specialty plates include universities, patriotic plates, special causes (e.g. wildlife fund, children's education, lighthouse restoration), and personalized license plates.



Council members observe and note the operation of a stamping machine run by a prisoner worker.

The National Council was impressed with the precision and efficiency of the factory. They commented on the organization and the ability of prisoner workers to keep pace with the presses that stamp out license plates. The Council also liked the wide selection of license plates offered to Michigan citizens.

MSI and ATF were proud to represent the Michigan Department of Corrections during the tour. They were pleased to have met everyone from the Japanese National Automobile License Plate Council and hope that the tour was beneficial.

GRPD PROMOTES IN-REACH



The Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) is cutting-edge when it comes to the Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative (MPRI) and its facility In-reach programs. Lieutenant Ralph Mason and Officer Terry Dixon visited Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC) on September 24, 2008 to discuss the role of law enforcement in supporting offenders who return to the community.

Mason explained how law enforcement officers and returning felons can work together. He attempted to break down walls of fear, mistrust and resentment that so many offenders hide behind.

Both GRPD officers provided offenders with tips for success when dealing with law enforcement. Tip number one was stressed frequently - "Do what we ask you to do." Other tips included being polite, owning up to mistakes, and keeping yourself away from criminal behavior and those who commit criminal behavior.

Both Mason and Dixon stressed that law enforcement has a duty to act



whenever they are called to a situation, but they let the offenders know that they are also approachable. They want to help keep these returning offenders crime-free and out of prison. Doing so requires that the offenders participate. As citizens, they have to respect their neighbors, and those who live there. They have to make the right choices - about housing, education, employment, and acquaintances.

Offender success in the community results in fewer crimes, safer communities and smaller prison populations. Grand Rapids police know that all of those things are good for their city, and ultimately good for Michigan's citizens.

