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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ENHANCES PUBLIC SAFETY EFFORTS
Improvements in inmate processing performance results in decline in release errors

(Washington, DC) The District of Columbia Department of Corrections reports that significant improvements made in its Records Office operations have resulted in increased accuracy in inmate releases. The Department has experienced a 90.90 percent reduction in overdetections or delayed releases from October 2006 to this past March and erroneous releases have decreased from three (3) in April 2007 to zero (0) in March.

Corrections Director, Devon Brown points out that the inmate release process is a complicated function in which all components of the criminal justice system play a role. "The Department is pleased with the progress made in mitigating the problems associated with properly addressing this issue. There have been a number of new procedures and operational enhancements implemented in the past year that contribute to the substantial progress of this vital jail function," states Director Brown.

These initiatives entail the following:

Increased Staffing

The Department hired 26 new employees and reorganized the supervisory structure within the Records Office in fiscal year 2007. Staff in the unit underwent a series of intense training including a mandatory 40-hour course in inmate records procedures. The increase in personnel and enhanced training have promoted greater accountability and proficiency to perform the myriad and complex functions associated with operating a correctional Records Office.

Streamlined Records Processing

The Department assumed supervision of the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) Records Office operations in late December in an effort to streamline records processing and establish more effective accountability. Staff is now uniformly trained to perform operations at the Central Detention Facility (CDF) and the CTF. In addition, a Records supervisor is now permanently assigned to oversee the CTF operation. Beginning this month (April), Records Office staff has been assigned to the DC Superior Court Cell Block to screen court ordered releases and expedite appropriate documentation to the Records Office for release preparation. This enhancement provides the Department immediate access in reviewing all court documents for short term sentences and also allows the Central Detention Facility to adequately and timely determine jail credit for sentence computation. Staffing personnel at court decreases the likelihood of delays of court ordered releases. This new arrangement will also allow staff to verify court documents against cases on the Prisoner Transfer Request to prevent erroneous releases.

Enhanced Technologies

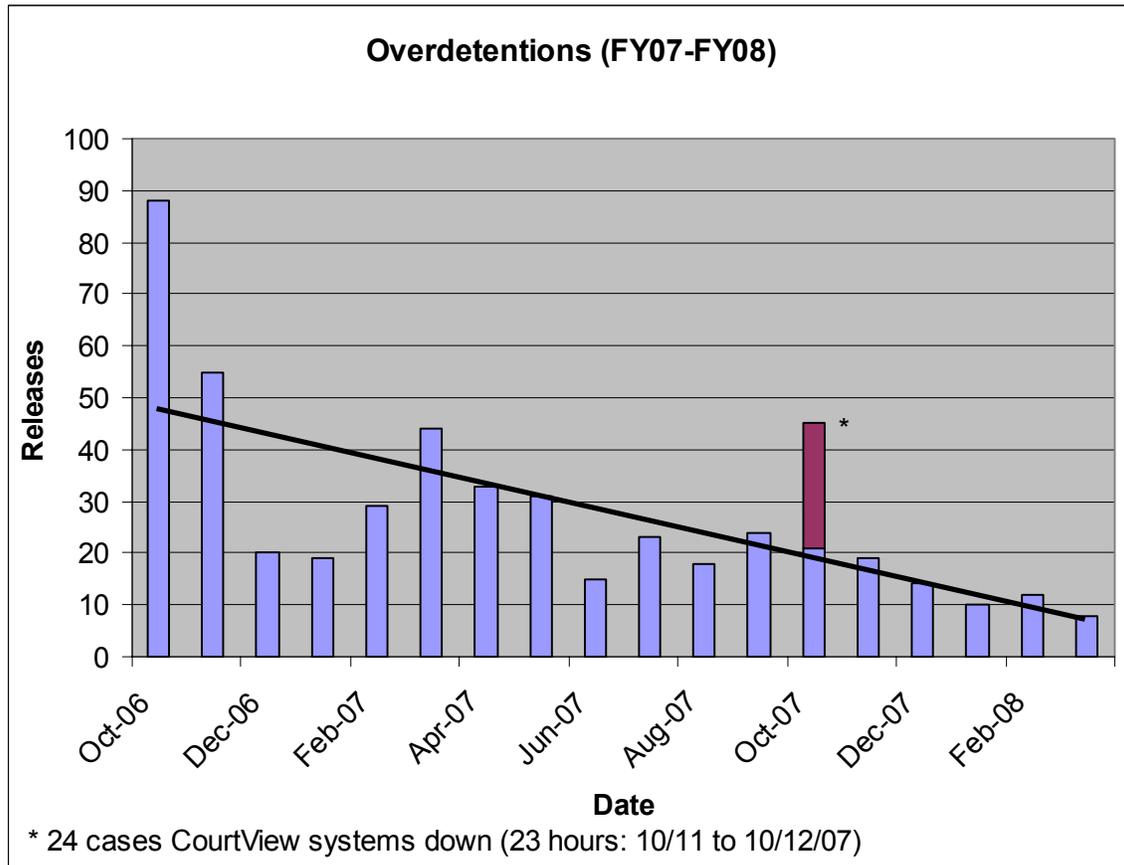
The Department has installed electronic monitors in the Records Office to allow more effective tracking and monitoring of records processing. This computer generated system tracks in real time all inmates identified for release and denotes the time needed to adequately process the inmates. This visual system facilitates release monitoring to ensure greater accuracy and supervision of the release process. In addition to these measures, the integration of a sentence calculator to standardize sentence computation has also contributed to the reduction of errors.

Prison Transfer Request (PTR)

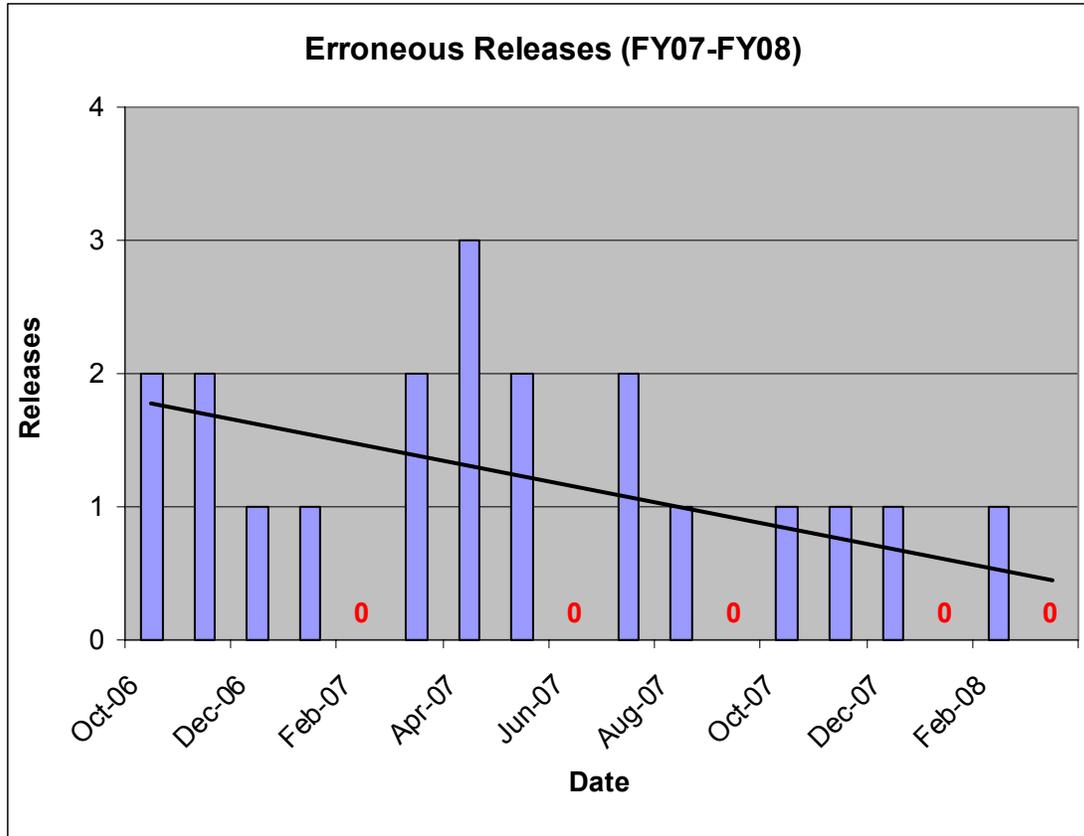
The Prison Transfer Request (PTR) has become an automated process. By automating this system, the work will become streamlined, the transfers will be completed more timely and human error will be reduced substantially. The system will ultimately eliminate inmates from being transferred between court rooms without proper paperwork. Collaboration with the Superior Court to enhance the automated PTR is ongoing to include data exchange (DCDC #s, inmate locations, separations, etc). Staff errors have been minimized and the number of come-ups has been reduced.

“These improvements in conjunction with interagency collaboration have produced marked success in our continuous efforts to advance all processes conducted within the Records Office processing,” said Director Brown.

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Overdetentions have decreased from a level of 88 in October 2006 to a level of 8 in March 2008.



Erroneous Releases have decreased from a level of 3 in April 2007 to 0 in March 2008.