

# DOC NEWS ONLINE

A publication of the D.C. Department of Corrections

Volume 2, Issue 1  
January 2005

## CHRISTMAS GIVING COMES EASILY FOR DOC AND FOP!



Just a few examples of the donations.



Loading the toys into one of the trucks at the D.C. Jail are: (L-R) Cpl. Laurrine Ellis, Brenda Scott— Records Office Supervisor, unidentified driver for Ella's Kids Inc., Cpl. DeLonda Craig, Capt. Orlando Harper, Warden Steve Smith, Nila Ritenour and Paulette Hutchings –Johnson.

Generous donations from DC Department of Corrections and Fraternal Order of Police helped to make last Christmas a very happy and memorable time for children throughout the District of Columbia. Two truckloads of toys were delivered to **Ella's Kids Inc.**, an organization that provides toys, gifts, clothing, educational resources and support to families in transition and recovery.

The late Rev. Lucius O. Robertson and his wife, Nellie, who named the organization for their daughter, started Ella's Kids Inc. in 1946. **Ella Robertson-Strother**, the organization's executive director, is a Physician Assistant consultant at CCA/CTF. The Robertson family was instrumental in assisting numerous disadvantaged families in

order to improve their economic status in the Washington, D.C. community.

Ella's Kids, Inc. has successfully collaborated with numerous community organizations in the Washington, D.C. area, furthering its vision and mission of working with children and youth.

Some of the organizations that benefited from these gifts of kindness through Ella's Kids Inc. are Community of Hope, Ivy City Resource Center, Cataada House, Hannah House, Slowe Elementary School, and Mirian House. These organizations are among hundreds in the city that provide services to disadvantaged and challenged youths and their caregivers.

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**Anthony A. Williams**, Mayor  
District of Columbia Government



**Odie Washington**, Director



## A NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



January -- the time when resolutions are declared, promises are made, and objectives for the year are set.

As you go through your lists, weeding out some things, and planning how you are going to reach the milestones of whatever goals remain, I simply ask each of you to keep in mind the major goal of our agency, and to resolve to uphold it throughout the year:

### District of Columbia Department of Corrections Mission Statement

The mission of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections is to ensure public safety for the citizens of the District of Columbia by providing a safe and secure environment for the confinement of pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates.

It is essential to remain unwavering about this mission. It takes each of us, doing our job to the best of our ability, to effectively maintain the safety and security necessary for this community's well being.

Encouraged by the successes of 2004, I am optimistic about the outlook for 2005. Your continuing efforts truly make a difference. Thank you for all you do.

I wish you a happy and prosperous year.

*Odie Washington*

# DOC

**NEWS ONLINE**  
is published monthly  
by the  
District of Columbia  
Department of  
Corrections

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**Odie Washington**  
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**Your input is important.**  
*DOC News Online* encourages  
responses from its readers.  
Letters or other submissions  
should be E-mailed to:  
[doccommunications@dc.gov](mailto:doccommunications@dc.gov)

The Office of Public Affairs reserves the  
right to edit all materials submitted.

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1923 Vermont Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-671-2135

### Sergeants & Lieutenants Promotions Examination

March 5, 2005

Time and location will be announced soon.

Thanks to the following people for  
contributing news, articles, and updates  
to this month's issue of  
*DOC NewsOnline*

**Keith Godwin**  
**Betty Green**  
**Paulette Hutchings-Johnson**  
**Terry Kidwell**  
**Lavon Sanders**

Every DOC employee is invited to  
submit article suggestions for the  
newsletter.

## DOC DEPUTY DIRECTOR IS FINALIST FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS CAFRITZ AWARD



Patricia Britton, DC Department of Corrections Deputy Director, was selected as a finalist for the 2004 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Awards for Distinguished DC Government Employees. Her outstanding contributions were publicly acknowledged during a program and celebration reception on December 17 at The Cafritz Foundation Conference Center on the George Washington University Campus.

This annual DC public service awards program is made possible by a grant from the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and is administered by The George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership.

Ms. Britton's nomination for this award was based on her numerous outstanding achievements and her sustained exemplary performance. She spearheaded an overtime taskforce that reduced overtime by 40%; was instrumental in securing a \$158,000 federal grant for security enhancements; coordinated the agency's Smoke-Free initiative; and spearheaded an initiative with the U.S. Superior Court Marshal's Service for DOC to assume all Superior Court inmate transports resulting in a \$1.2 million contract award.

Deputy Director Britton was among a select group of 16 individuals chosen for the award because their performance and dedication exemplifies the best in public service. The Cafritz Award winners and finalists for 2004 were selected from 186 applicants who were nominated from a District of Columbia government workforce of more than 32,000 eligible employees.

## GREG JACKSON'S FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE DC DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS STAFF

On the eve of my departure from the DOC to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, I want to let each of you know how honored I am to have had the opportunity to serve with you. From the first day on the job in July 1999 I have been humbled by your dedication and determination to do so much with so little.

Over the last five years this agency has overcome so much, succeeded against what sometimes appeared to be insurmountable odds, and risen to each and every challenge. While withstanding harsh criticism from both friend and foe, we have closed an entire prison system, transferred over 10,000 inmates to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, overcome budget deficits, survived major staff reductions, endured homicides and shooting at the Jail, and terminated some of the longest court-oversight-of-corrections cases in the country.

Each and every day I have carried my DOC badge with honor and pride. I believe in what it stands for. I know the importance and necessity of what we do. What we have shared, accomplished and endured has prepared me well for my next assignment. I thank you for that.

I look forward to the continued success for the D.C. Department of Corrections that I know will come from your continued efforts.

Thank you again, and keep up the good work.

## DOC STAFF UPDATES

### Recent Retirees

**Dennis Beeton**, Supervisory Supply

Management Representative

**Jesse Capers**, Correctional Officer

**Thomas Long**, Recreation Specialist

**Rudolph Makle**, Correctional Officer

**Aaron Moore**, Correctional Officer

**Joseph Thomas**, Supervisory Correctional  
Officer

**Rufus Truman**, Correctional Officer



## AN INTERVIEW WITH TERRY KIDWELL: TAKING CORRECTIONS FROM SOUTHEAST TO THE MIDDLE EAST

*Terry Kidwell, a recent DOC retiree, is serving as a corrections consultant in Iraq. On a recent visit home, he stopped by DOC to visit former colleagues. Mr. Kidwell began his DOC career as a correctional officer in 1983 at the former Maximum Security Facility in Lorton, Virginia. During 20 years with the agency he worked in the Training Academy, was promoted to sergeant, worked at Occoquan, and also in the Transport Unit. He served as training coordinator for the Special Weapons and Tactical Team, Emergency Preparedness coordinator, security advisor, and as a correctional program specialist*



*Director Washington greets Terry Kidwell and Terry's wife, Debbie, when they visited Grimke headquarters in December.*

**Q. Iraq? During wartime? What the heck were you thinking?**

A. I probably wasn't! 😊 No, seriously, Regina Gilmore e-mailed me the announcement about the project. My first reaction was that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity; a chance to take what I had learned over a 20+ year career with the DOC and make a small contribution to a very worthwhile effort. I also remember reading about our troops who were being stretched thin and felt that this project would relieve them of duties that were not really military functions.

**Q. Who is your employer? What is your job? Where are you and your colleagues located?**

A. I'm with a subcontractor of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) that has a contract with the Justice department. I'm the Deputy Director for Audits, Intelligence and Investigations. Our job is to help the Iraqi corrections officials run a more humane, organized prison system. I can't reveal the exact location, but we're based in Baghdad.

**Q. Tell me about your housing, your typical day, and recreation.**

A. We stay in a hotel located in a heavily guarded, very secure compound. We get up early, dress in our war zone gear, meet our security forces, join our convoy and are transported to our assigned location for the day. We spend the day with our Iraqi Corrections System counterparts discussing the day-to-day operations of prisons. We work six days each week, 11 to 12 hours a day. Recreation consists of simple pleasures like sleeping an hour later, or having time to enjoy a cup of coffee.

**Q. How often are you in touch with your family? How do you reassure them and keep them calm?**

A. I have my cell phone, and access to e-mail, so I'm in touch with my family and friends every day. My wife is very supportive of what I'm doing, and so are the rest of my family and all our friends. I always tell them not to watch CNN!



*Terry shares a lighthearted moment with Iraqi children near his compound.*

**Q. Are there any similarities between DOC and Iraqi Correctional System?**

A. Except for the fact that we both house prisoners, none! DOC is way beyond anything in Iraq.

**Q. Is there anything from your corrections experience that prepared you for going to a war zone?**

A. I had excellent training at DOC. However there is not any one experience that prepares you for the type of environment I am in now. But my DOC days taught me to expect the unexpected and to be flexible. Those things have served me well since I've been in Iraq, because so much of it is unexpected.

**Q. Would you do it again?**

A. Well, yes...maybe...probably. I believe it is a worthwhile mission. As a people we all need to stand for freedom, self-determination, for human rights. We all need to be committed to those things we stand for.

**Q. Any message for your former DOC colleagues?**

A. Tell them that I miss them. I learned a lot from each and every one of them. Their friendship, my memories of the camaraderie, and knowing that I am in their prayers sustain me every day in Baghdad.

## SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE JAIL

*“Installing the state-of-the-art security system, is part of a comprehensive initiative to significantly improve safety and security for staff and inmates at the jail.”*  
**Steve Smith**, Warden—D.C. Jail

The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) remains committed to ensuring a safe environment at the jail. The most recent enhancements include the installation of a high tech, state-of-the-art closed circuit television monitoring system, and updating inmate transport vehicles with a GPS tracking system.



*Monitors in the Command Center allow a view of activity throughout the CDF.*

The installation of the closed circuit television monitoring system began in November and is about 95% operational. The system, consisting of 25 computers, 152 stationary cameras and 20 cameras with pan, tilt and zoom capability, is designed to serve as a deterrent to violence and will provide correctional officers with 24-hour continuous surveillance of the entire facility.



*Multiple areas can be viewed or kept from view, as needed.*

The advanced, high-resolution camera system operates on the Windows 2000 platform. The software program that drives the cameras lends itself to a lot of flexibility. For example, recording can be activated when motion is detected in any part of a predetermined location. The program can also block out movement in areas that officials do not want recorded.

The cameras will enable the immediate identification, via closed-circuit television, of inmates involved in assaults or any other type of disorderly activity. Officials expect that assaults and illegal activity will decline sharply because of this comprehensive surveillance equipment.

“This sophisticated system will go a long way towards transforming the facility into a model jail in the nation’s capital,” said Ajay Kapoor, Chief of Facilities Management.



*Cameras are placed in locations inside and outside the CDF.*

DOC has purchased and will soon be installing the Kapturenet Video System in all vehicles used for prisoner transportation. This system has combined the latest wireless technologies, the most advanced Global Positioning System (GPS), and the highly sophisticated audio/video compression technology to represent the latest development in its field. It will allow the unit the capability of transmitting live audio and video of their every movement to any DOC facility in the city. The GPS monitoring system will provide real time tracking of the vehicle at all times. The recorded activity can be electronically stored for future reference. Enhancements such as these will increase security and provide indisputable evidence of activity that occurs during prisoner transport.

**Did you make that resolution to  
 join the ACA?**

LEARN, NETWORK, PARTICIPATE!  
 American Correctional Association

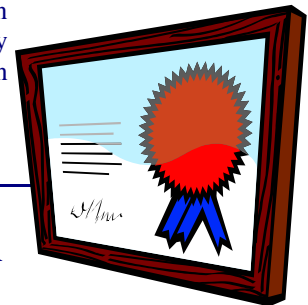
1-800-ACA-JOIN, ext. 1920
[www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org)

## SENIOR CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS SELECTED AS EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2004

Reporting for work close to the midnight hour may raise an eyebrow among people who believe that the quiet hours after dark should be reserved for sleeping. However, correctional staff at the D.C. Jail assigned to the Number One Shift or the “graveyard shift” as it is commonly known, are doing anything but getting shut-eye at night. Like their colleagues who work during the day and evening, the midnight staff is committed to ensuring a safe and secure facility for staff and inmates. Two senior correctional officers assigned to the Jail’s Number One Shift were recently selected Employee of the Month.

**Ron Archer**, who joined the agency in May 1987, was selected Employee of the Month for October 2004. Cpl. Archer, who is described as very flexible and easily adaptable to new and changing situations, has worked many posts during his tenure at the Jail. He is currently assigned to the Sick and Annual Relief Pool, which is a perfect fit for his easygoing personality. Cpl. Archer’s excellent interpersonal skills are also an asset to post assignments, which may change daily. His knowledge of current policies and procedures has enabled him to be very effective in counseling inmates on issues related to their incarceration. His colleagues and supervisors count on his “get the job done” contributions on the Number One Shift – an example for others to follow.

**Lawrence Goodwin**, who is also assigned to the Sick and Annual Relief Pool, was selected Employee of the Month for November 2004. Corporal Goodwin has worked for the agency since October 1989. In his current assignment, Cpl. Goodwin says that it is important to be familiar with all posts. Cpl. Goodwin is familiar with the posts that he is assigned and prepared for any change, which may occur daily. Cpl. Goodwin was especially prepared on two separate occasions during November when he prevented the introduction of contraband into the Jail. Cpl. Goodwin inspected the loading dock on November 27 and discovered contraband that later tested positive for marijuana and heroin. The following day he inspected the loading dock again and uncovered additional major contraband. Cpl. Goodwin’s consistency and competency in carrying out the responsibilities associated with his post play a significant role in contributing to the security and safety of staff, inmates, and visitors.




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## BETTY GREEN RECEIVES THE 2004 FOURTH QUARTER CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

To experience outstanding customer service in the agency, one needs to look no further than to **Betty Green**, a management analyst assigned to the Human Resources Division who has thirty-one years service with the Department of Corrections. Mrs. Green was selected as the agency’s Fourth Quarter Customer Service Employee for 2004.

On any given workday, Mrs. Green can be found juggling a myriad of tasks related to the effective coordination and delivery of several employee management programs. She demonstrates an extreme level of energy, professionalism, and competency in carrying out her responsibilities.

One assignment that reflects Mrs. Green’s commitment to outstanding customer service is

coordinating the agency’s re-entry process for employees returning to duty from Reduction-in-Force (RIF) and other separations. To effectively handle the many details of the assignment, she frequently interacts with internal management and representatives from other District government agencies to help ease the process. Her accommodating nature and team player spirit, makes for a pleasant and productive work environment.

“I am really excited about being a part of the new Department of Corrections,” Mrs. Green says, when asked about the importance of quality customer service in the workplace. “I think about the image of the new DOC and how important it is to consistently project that positive image, both among colleagues and to the public.”

## DOC SOWS SEEDS IN 50<sup>TH</sup> ONE FUND DRIVE KICKOFF

Department of Corrections staff members are “sowing seeds” in support of the **50<sup>th</sup> One Fund Drive**. Following a kickoff held at the DC Jail on December 22, employees eagerly lined up to make a contribution to the annual charitable fundraiser. The incentive of receiving administrative leave for making an early contribution (before December 31) was hard to resist.

To date, DOC has achieved more than 30 percent of its \$45,000 campaign goal.

If you have not made your contribution to the **50<sup>th</sup> One Fund Drive**, it’s not too late to sow a seed. Giving is easy and each contribution counts. Whether by cash, check or payroll deduction, the One Fund Drive wants your support and participation.

For more information on how you can support the One Fund Drive, contact Beverly Young, One Fund Agency representative at (202) 671-2135.



*One Fund key persons, Maryon Perkins and Renee Morgan.*



*One Fund Kickoff guest speakers Thomye Cave, Downtown Cluster’s Geriatric Day Care Center and Ann Cunningham-Keep, Visitor’s Services Center/DC Jails*

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS ARRIVE EARLY FOR THE FEMALE INMATES

The Women In Touch Ministry of Fort Foote Baptist Church in Fort Washington, MD, uses its annual Christmas Fellowship breakfast as an opportunity to collect items that they donate to various organizations throughout the Washington metropolitan area.

One of the beneficiaries of this outpouring of gifts during the recent holidays was the female inmate population at the DC Jail.

On December 23, Fort Foote Baptist Church members, Louise McCluney and her daughter Claudette McCluney, accompanied by DOC Deputy Director Patricia Britton, visited the jail to deliver a variety of toiletries, including lotion, soap, shampoo, and much more, that had been donated.



*Deputy Director Patricia Britton, Claudette McCluney, Cpl. Darrel Dowery, and Louise McCluney, unpack and arrange the gifts collected from Fort Foote Baptist Church for the female*



*The women gather to receive their gifts.*

## DOC HOLIDAY CELEBRATION IS A JOYOUS "FAMILY" AFFAIR

The Department's Christmas luncheon and social dance was held on December 15 at D.C. General Hospital. DOC's own elves made sure that the decorations, the food and the music filled the atmosphere with just the right holiday spirit!

