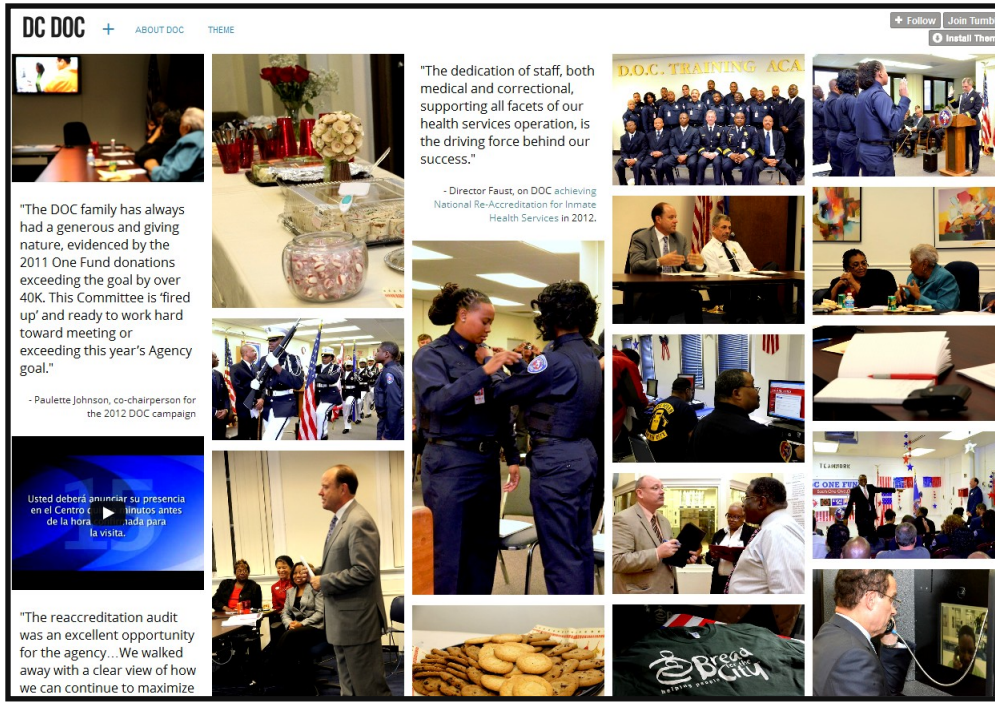


# FRONTLINE NEWS

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A view of the new DC DOC Tumblr account.

## DC DOC Launches Tumblr Account

One look at the Department's main website and you'll notice a recent addition to the home page—the announcement of DOC's tumblr account, a webpage that uses photographs to showcase a side of DOC that is not normally captured: the lifestyle of the people who work in the agency.

The new webpage ([dcdoc.tumblr.com](http://dcdoc.tumblr.com)) features photos from various ceremonies, events, and moments throughout the year and will continue to be updated as more photos are taken. The site officially launched on Friday, November 30 and was added to the homepage of DOC's main website on Tuesday, December 11.

"We're very excited about the launch of this new project," said Sylvia Lane, Public Information Officer. "The tumblr account is a unique opportunity for us to showcase many of the great things going on in our Department. We expect it to help us as we grow and expand our DOC brand through different forms of media."

Tumblr is a social networking website that allows users to post photos, videos, and other content in short-form blog posts. Currently, over 77 million blogs are created through the largely visual, micro-blogging platform. For more information about the tumblr page, contact the Office of Government and Public Affairs.

By Darby Baham

## Inside

- Inmates Participate in Voting for Presidential Election* 2
- Fourteen Officers Join the Ranks in Graduation Ceremony* 2
- Meet the New Training Administrator* 3
- Ragboby Exchange Offers New Beginnings* 4
- Inmates Complete Culinary Program* 4

*"We're very excited about the launch of this new project! The tumblr account is a unique opportunity for us to showcase many of the great things going on in our Department."*

- Sylvia Lane



# Inmates Participate in Voting for Presidential Election



Arlin Budoo and Tyrone Parker help prisoners to vote at a D.C. jail on Oct. 24.  
Photo: Jacquelyn Martin, AP

In a presidential election that saw an estimated turnout of 126 million people, the D.C. Jail could proudly account for at least 88 of those voters – an accomplishment that many jails across the nation have yet to be able to achieve. Eighty-six (86) inmates housed at the Correctional Treatment Facility also voted in this year's election. These voting efforts were recently documented by the Associated Press and appeared on USA Today.com in an article entitled, [DC Jail helps inmates vote, a rarity nationwide](#).

The article chronicled our benchmark voting process, which includes registering eligible inmates as voters and allowing them the opportunity to vote via mail absentee ballot. It also recognized DOC for its rare practice of allowing eligible inmates to vote.

One notable reason that DCDOC has the opportunity to register inmates is that we house pretrial and misdemeanor inmates who by District law are eligible to vote, provided they do not have a past felony conviction. These inmates are given the opportunity to apply for an absentee ballot through the District's Board of Elections and Ethics as long as they remain incarcerated at election time.

This year's presidential election voting took place at the D.C. Jail on October 24, 2012, with a make-up day of October 31, 2012 for any eligible inmates who were at court on the first day. The coordinators for the voting process were Deborah Miller and James Riddick.

*By Darby Baham*

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## Fourteen Officers Join the Ranks in Graduation Ceremony

The Department held its Basic Correctional Training Program Graduation Ceremony on Monday, November 19, graduating fourteen officers and six civilian staff members.

The ceremony included the presentation of colors by the Honor Guard Unit, the National Anthem sung by Corporal MaRion Boyd, and remarks from Director Faust, Warden Futch and other Departmental staff. Following the presentation of certificates to each graduate and certificates of Marksmanship and achievement awards given to various officers, the new officers stood and took their oath of office, pledging to uphold the mission, vision, and duties of the DC Department of Corrections.



Honor Guard enters during Officer Graduation Ceremony. Photo: Bridget Reavis-Tyler

During the pinning ceremony, the new officers proudly paired up, affixing their badges to the left pocket of the uniform as the official start of their tenure with DCDOC. They also had the opportunity to greet and thank the Director, Deputy Director, Warden, and Training Academy staff.

Officer Class 12-03 was greeted by adoring friends and family when they concluded the processional to their seats. The processional included a recitation of their theme, "Beyond the Best, Benchmark to Success," as well as other important pledges concerning integrity, public trust, courage, and honor.

*By Darby Baham*

## Getting to know Mr. Brown

Born and raised in Chicago, Michael Brown began a career of public service when he joined the United States Air Force in 1982. In 1988, he landed in the Washington, DC area by way of Andrews Air Force Base, where he was assigned to the Presidential support unit. Upon separating, Michael attended the Prince George's County Municipal Police Academy in 1990 and went on to become a police officer, instructor, and detective.

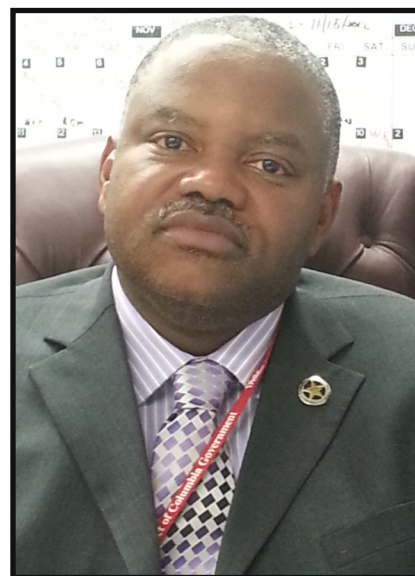
In 2003, Michael was injured and retired after 13 years of service. Shortly thereafter, he was hired by the National Sheriffs' Association, where he managed an executive level Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Program. During his 9 year tenure, Michael became the Homeland Security Training Manager, where he oversaw the development and delivery of the DHS Executive Level and Community Partnership All Hazards Training Programs. Michael sat on the FBI/CJIS Advisory Policy Board and is a member of the FBI/CJIS Information Sharing Sub Committee, the National Homeland Security Consortium, the FEMA Law Enforcement Working Group, and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact Advisory Policy Board. Michael was a member of the Technical Steering Committee for the National Institute of Justice Personal Protective Equipment for Law Enforcement Standards and the NIJ TSC for Law Enforcement Duty Holsters.

Michael is currently an adjunct faculty member at Towson University, where he developed and teaches several specialty courses.

## Profile:

### Meet the Training Administrator

This December, Michael Brown joined the Department as the Training Administrator for the Department's Training Academy. He takes on this role after having served in the United States Air Force and in law enforcement for several years. Read on to learn a little more about the new Training Administrator:



**Q: What led you into a career in training?**

A: It started as an attempt to get off the midnight shift. I was a pretty good shooter, so I applied to go to firearms instructor school. I then went on to basic police instructor school, and as I matured, I saw the value in giving back. For me, there's nothing greater than passing on years of institutional knowledge to our future leaders. It's rewarding when you see the results and know that you were part of the process.

**Q: What are some of your short term and long term goals as the Training Administrator for DOC?**

A: I would have to say that short term, my goal is to produce academy graduates and supervisors that represent not only the agency, but the profession as a whole in a manner [that] reflects positively on the District Government. Long term, my goal is to assist the Director with his vision of the DC DOC becoming a bench mark department. That's a vision that I share, and I think it's obtainable.

**Q: What are you most looking forward to in this new position?**

A: I'm looking forward to being associated with something that could very well be historic. The possibility of leaving behind a legacy is enticing. In the short time that I've been here, I've encountered some extremely talented people.

**Q: Tell us a bit about yourself—some of your hobbies and interests.**

A: I don't have any hobbies per se. Overall, I'm pretty laid back. I play golf whenever the opportunity presents itself. I've been fortunate where I've had the opportunity to play at some very nice courses, including 2 PGA Tour courses. Other than that, I like to read non-fiction.

# Ragbaby Exchange Offers New Beginnings

On November 20, 2012, the Ragbaby Exchange program held its first Rites of Passage for two female youth offenders at the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). The two graduates began phase 1 of the program when they were juveniles and will complete phase 2 at a later date.

Ragbaby Exchange utilizes art as therapy and moves the participants to inner reflection through affirmations, visioning, and doll making. The purpose is to help participants discover their own self worth and develop life skills that enable them to realize their choices. The therapeutic and creative exercises are designed to release issues, pain, and anger, and to come to an understanding of the next steps for developing the whole person.

The ceremony, which uses a tea party setting to indicate a healing and peaceful experience, included three separate stages: Separation, Transition rites, and Rites Incorporated. Following the Rites of Passage, each woman was asked to take and sign the Ragbaby Rites of Passage Oath confirming that she will continue to affirm herself in positive ways, develop her dreams and desires, accept the roles she chose (changing it when necessary), help others to grow and develop as she does, forgive herself and others, and recognize and respect her family and the community in all things. "[We want them to] become successful, productive adults in society," said Regina Gilmore, Women's Program Coordinator at CTF. "[Each] participant embraces trust in the cycle of life and where she is right now. She begins to mature as she envisions and creates a better life for herself."

*By Regina Gilmore & Darby Baham*

## Masthead

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# Inmates Complete Culinary Program

This December, thirteen inmates completed the Department's culinary program after participating in the three required components of the program. The six to ten week program includes a Kitchen Basics component covering personal hygiene and operations, a Retail Basics component covering customer service and marketing and a Certification component that involves successful completion of a 90 question examination issued by the National Restaurant Association.

"Once the inmates complete the coursework, upon their release, they will be able to work in the food and warehouse industry anywhere in the country," said Instructor Famitah Shah.

The course also includes opportunities for hands-on experience and covers several business concepts for those looking to create their own business when they return to the community. However, according to Ms. Shah, one of the biggest benefits of the program comes from the encouragement many of the inmates receive while participating.

"We stress teamwork [in this program]," said Ms. Shah. "The stronger students have to help the other ones. And it's a moral boost thing for them. We'll have inmates from their young 20s to their 50s, and it's a way for them to encourage each other."

Since Ms. Shah began working with the program in March 2010, 255 inmates have completed the program and received national certifications that are recognized in the United States and Canada. The program recently began another course which has 20 participants. Graduates are recognized later in the year during a joint ceremony with the Department's GED program.



Inmates in culinary program. Photo: Bridget Reavis-Tyler