

INSIDE CORRECTIONS

Official Newsletter
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of Corrections



LaDonna
Thompson
Commissioner

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HB 463: Legislation Brings Many Changes

By Lisa Lamb
Director of Communications

History was made on March 3 when a landmark justice reform bill designed to decrease the state's prison population, reduce incarceration costs, reduce crime and increase public safety was signed into law by Governor Steve Beshear.

HB 463 is estimated to save the Commonwealth \$422 million over the next decade.

The bill is the culmination of years of study and its primary goal was to solve the complex problem: the skyrocketing costs of Corrections.

"This overhaul of Kentucky's penal code is the result of a multi-year effort

involving members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches," said Gov. Beshear.

"Over the last three years, we've made headway with aggressive efforts to bring common sense to Kentucky's penal code, and our prison population has dropped each of the past three years. House Bill 463 helps us be tough on crime, while being smart on crime."

The bill modernizes Kentucky drug laws by reducing prison time for low-risk, non-violent drug offenders who possess small amounts of illegal drugs.

It then reinvests the savings from the reduced prison costs into drug treatment

Please See HB 463, Page 13



Governor Steven Beshear signed into law HB 463, a landmark justice reform bill designed to decrease Kentucky's prison population and save the state \$422 million over the next decade. It is the product of recommendations from a bipartisan, inter-branch task force that included legislators, the Chief Justice, officials from the Justice Cabinet, prosecutors and local officials.

On The Inside

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Morgan Kinslow Part of Paducah Symphony Orchestra

Correctional Officer at KSP Keeps Time for His Music

On stage as a musician with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra, Morgan Kinslow wears a tuxedo. But moments after putting his tuba back into the case, he sometimes quickly slips to the dressing room and emerges moments later with his badge

and uniform.

Kinslow, 35, is a corrections officer on the midnight shift at the Kentucky State Penitentiary at Eddyville. On the exterior, the mental toughness of his career day seems like such a

Please See MUSIC, Page 16



Chuck Hughes



Kirstie Willard



Desi Brooks



Tracey Reed



C.L. Watts



Michael Coomer

Jail Inspectors Play Crucial Role for DOC

Within the Division of Local Facilities, there are two Jail Consultants, Desi Brooks and Tracey Reed, and four Jail Services Specialists, Chuck Hughes, Kirstie Willard, C.L. Watts and Michael Coomer.

These six employees are responsible for overseeing all county and regional jails in the state to ensure that they are in compliance with the Kentucky Jail Standards as outlined in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

In order to accomplish this goal, they perform two inspections each year on all detention centers in the state. The first inspection of each year is announced. During this inspection every aspect of the detention center is reviewed and evaluated to verify that the facility meets the Kentucky Jail Standards.

The inspection for a Full-Service facility contains 190 critical items including but not limited to administrative functions, information systems, personnel, physical plant, security areas, emergency

procedures, sanitation, medical services, food services, classification, admissions, releases, prisoner programs and prisoner rights.

The second yearly inspection is an unannounced inspection. This unannounced inspection allows the inspectors to see how the jail operates on any routine day.

This inspection also provides a review of any items that were non-compliant during the first inspection.

The Jail inspectors conduct 168 routine inspections every year. Additionally, a number of special inspections may be performed on detention centers at the request of the jailer or local governing body.

These inspections provide vital information as to jail's physical plant condition, jail operations and prisoner program availability. They also provide the detention centers with guidance for providing increased safety for both the inmates as well as their communities.

In addition to performing inspections,

Please See JAIL, Page 10

DOC Employees Playing Big Role In Implementation of New KHRIS System

Bobbie Underwood, Amanda Coulter and Leslie Tindall have been completely immersed in KHRIS (Kentucky Human Resource Information System) for several years in one way or another. However, in 2010, they were selected to embark on an exciting new endeavor as they were selected to be lead trainers for the KHRIS implementation process.

Their commitment to the training process began November 29, 2010 when they were formally trained on the KHRIS system and techniques for training delivery.

The following month, Bobbie, Amanda and Leslie were selected to lead the pilot training that was delivered to Personnel Cabinet Business Managers/Executives as well as the other individuals that would be conducting the training.

This was a huge honor for them to be placed in this role as they would be setting the example for the other trainers to follow.

Their involvement with KHRIS could be completely overwhelming at times; however, they remained committed throughout the process and it has proven to be extremely rewarding to the Department of Corrections.



DOC Division of Personnel Services employees (left to right) Amanda Coulter, Leslie Tindall, and Bobbie Underwood have played key roles in the implementation of the new KHRIS system. The three were selected as lead trainers for the entire state.

Many of the other trainers were completely relieved of their agency job duties to focus solely on the KHRIS project; however, Bobbie, Amanda and

Leslie continued their DOC job tasks while performing their KHRIS training duties.

This involved not only working late

Please See KHRIS, Page 7

In the Next Issue ...

*District 3 Probation & Parole Officer
& Kentucky National Guard Major
Steve Brumley
will be featured as our
'Spotlight on a Veteran'*



Marion Co. Passes ACA Audit; Becomes First-Ever Certified Jail

Last year the Marion County Detention Center (MCDC) signed a contract with the American Correctional Association (ACA) notifying them of their intent to seek certification by abiding by the ACA's list of "Core Jail Standards."

On March 9th and 10th, following a oneyear process, MCDC completed and passed their ACA audit.

Jailer Barry Brady said there are a total of 77 full-service jails in Kentucky, and while a few of them have shown an interest in the certification process, MCDC will be the first and only detention center in Kentucky to receive ACA certification.

Achieving certification shows that the jailer and his staff are working toward one common goal.

"We strive to do the right thing so we can reduce our liability issues without sacrificing the needs of the inmates or the professionalism of our staff," said Brady. "There are three things you don't ever compromise: staff, staff training and life safety issues."

The detention center received an audit score of 100% on mandatory standards and 94.3% on non-



The ACA audit of Marion County Detention Center, was conducted on March 9-10 by Rodney Bivens, Director of Corrections/Personnel for the Knox County Detention Facility in Knoxville and Daedra Carrio, Training Administration Coordinator for the Montgomery County Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation in Rockville, Maryland. Above Jailer Barry Brady congratulates his staff on the successful audit. Marion County Detention Center is now the first certified jail in Kentucky.

mandatory standards.

Brady said the non-mandatory items the jail failed to meet during the audit process are physical plant issues that are correctable, and are in fact already in the process of being corrected.

"The quality of life here at the facility, the medical services, and all the different aspects of the facility is exceptional," said Auditor Chairperson Rodney Bivens.

"The sanitation is exceptional. It's very rare going into a facility and hearing inmates telling

you that the one thing they like best about the facility is that it's clean. As an auditor, that says a whole lot about the staff and the facility. It's hard to point out everybody, but you can see the team effort and the 'hand-shake' everywhere you go."

MCDC will appear at a Commission Hearing on April 30, 2011.

Following this hearing, they will receive their actual certification at an ACA luncheon to be held at the CAMA Conference in Miami, Florida on May 1st.

AROUND

The State

Award Nominees Sought by ACA

The American Correctional Association is currently seeking nominations for several awards.

The nominations will be considered by the ACA's Correctional Awards Committee during our 141st Congress of Correction in Kissimmee, Florida, August 5-10, 2011, and will be presented to the successful candidates in January 2012.

The nomination forms are printed in the February/March issue of Corrections Today magazine. Here is a link to the ACA website also where forms are available: <http://www.aca.org/pastpresentfuture/awards.asp>

ACA asks that all nominations adhere to the entry rules as outlined on the forms.

The categories are:

- Community Service Award
- E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award
- Innovations in Corrections Award
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Award
- Medal of Valor Award
- Award of Merit
- Outstanding Journalism Award
- Peter P. Lejins Research Award

Nominations must be received in the ACA office by June 1, 2011.

A Mile in Amanda's Shoes

100 Friends Walk to Celebrate Weight Goal Inspired By Eye-Opening Trip to Haiti During the Earthquake

By Keren Henderson, Staff Writer

(Courtesy of the State Journal, Frankfort)

One hundred friends, coworkers and family members walked a mile in different spots worldwide on March 24th to mark 100 pounds – and counting – lost by the “amazing” Amanda Scott.

The majority bundled up to walk the celebratory mile Thursday night at Lakeview Park.

Amanda, 35, was shy in the spotlight yet beaming with pleasure.

“I am just overwhelmed by how many people came, especially since it is so cold outside,” she said.

The rest of her friends and family were walking in Japan, Bolivia, Italy, Belgium, California, Illinois, Florida, Rhode Island and Iowa.

Many people commented on Amanda’s resolve – once she decided to lose the pounds, there was no playing around, and she did it.

It’s not hard when you have the right incentive, Amanda explains.

In January 2010, Amanda was on a Capital City Christian Church mission trip in Haiti when the 7.0-magnitude earthquake hit, killing 300,000 and leaving 1 million homeless. No one from the team was hurt, but they witnessed extreme devastation.

The destruction was shocking, considering how depleted the country already was, Amanda said.

“Even in the worst parts of America, it’s hard to fathom how destitute and impoverished Haiti really is,” she said. “They were waiting for chicken bones from our leftover food. They really had nothing.”

After that trip, Amanda did a lot of thinking and re-evaluated her values. She looked at her relationship with food and her relationship with materialism in general.

“There they were with too little, and here I was with too much,” she said. “It made me think about what starvation really is.”

July 5, she made an appointment with Health Management Resources, based at the University of Kentucky, and has since changed her eating and exercising habits.

She first hit the 100-pound goal in February, and as of Tuesday, she had lost 106 pounds, and “I have about 45



On March 24th, 100 friends, coworkers and family members walked a mile in different spots worldwide Thursday to mark 100 pounds – and counting – lost by DOC’s Amanda Scott. Above: Amanda talks with her grandfather, Tom Scott, before the one-mile walk. At left: Commissioner LaDonna Thompson signs the poster congratulating Amanda on her weight loss.

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Spotlight On A Veteran

Tabitha Tracey

This issue of "Spotlight on a vet" focuses on Tabitha Tracey. Tracey started her career as a Correctional Officer at FCDC in October, 2008 and was promoted to Offender Information Specialist in December 2009.

Tabitha Tracey grew up in Frankfort, Kentucky and joined the Army right after graduating from Western Hills High School. She knew she wanted to be part of something bigger than herself. While most people her age were concerned with going to college or what they were doing on Friday night, she was in Iraq fighting a war.

Tracey served on active duty for four years, from 2002 through 2006. She completed her basic training and training school in the United States and was then assigned to a unit in Germany as an Electronic Warfare Intelligence Analyst. In this position, she was trained to monitor electronic signals in order to gather intelligence through communication systems.

Tracey was deployed to the middle east in 2003 and spent eight months in Kuwait and Iraq. While there, she said she spent less than half her time doing the job for which she was trained, with the remainder of her time being spent on work details such as convoy escorts and guard duty.

The environment was certainly difficult to say the least. Tracey said they would wear flea collars on their wrists and ankles to ward off the sand fleas and during the night they had to stuff their boots with towels to keep out the scorpions and spiders. But what she really missed were the small things such as home cooked meals, hot showers, watching TV and talking on the phone.

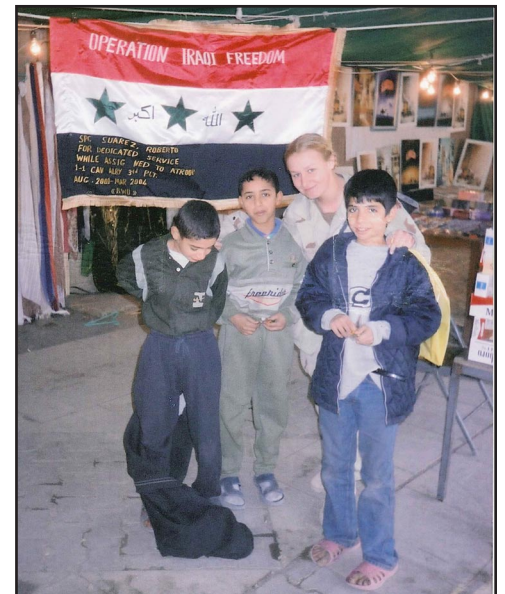
Due to water rationing, there were few showers available. Tracey would occasionally hang up a water bottle with string and poke holes in the bottom in an attempt to shower.

Baby wipes became her best friend. "It was how we stayed clean."

She recalled the first phone call that she was able to make to her mother after arriving in Iraq. "As I was on the phone, we started receiving mortar attacks. Our conversation ended in the middle of the attack and that was all she knew for a



Above: Specialist Tabitha Tracey stands guard with a 50-caliber machine gun in Iraq. **At right:** Tracey passes out candy and poses with several Iraqi children at their roadside market. Tracey said handing out supplies to the children of Iraq was the most satisfying part of her deployment.



while," said Tracey. "I didn't get to talk to her again for about a month."

Tracey said the most satisfying part of her deployment was being able to hand out humanitarian supplies to the Iraqi children. We would be in the middle of nowhere, and small children would be standing on the side of the road begging for food and handouts. She said they would share whatever supplies they had, be it food and water rations, or perhaps some candy they had received in a care package from home.

The most difficult thing about being deployed overseas for Tracey was being away from her family. When you are on active duty your co-workers become your family. You work

KHRIS

From Page 3

nights and every weekend but included coming to the office before and after teaching a full day of class and committing their lunch break in their classes to address DOC work issues at the office.

The complete professionalism and dedication of these three staff was evident as they each missed family events, vacations, and even holidays. They definitely proved their complete commitment to our agency and the project.

“Amanda, Bobbie and Leslie have been a tremendous asset to the KHRIS training team. They have worked extremely hard to train and support KHRIS users across the Commonwealth. Their dedication and allegiance to the project has been unwavering. All the while, they have successfully maintained their job responsibilities within their agency. They are consistently dependable, professional and enthusiastic. The KHRIS project team is very fortunate to have had them as part of the training team!”

Alaina Myers

Department of Human Resource Administration
 Personnel Cabinet
(In charge of KHRIS training statewide)

HaTs G OF F!

As another great Kudos to the Division of Personnel and specifically Bobbie Underwood and Amanda Cuolter, take a look at the chart to the right. Compared to all of state government as far as requesting registers in 2010, these two led the way - and it wasn't even a close race!

Bobbie Underwood requested more registers than anyone else in state government. Amanda Coulter was second (and during 2010 Amanda was off work for three months for maternity leave).

This is a great testament to the hard work and great effort put forth on a daily basis by our entire Division of Personnel Services' staff. The Department of Corrections is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 4,000 employees, so to top this list would be a huge honor in and of itself. Combine that with the fact Bobbie and Amanda were lead KHRIS trainers makes the achievement even more outstanding! But it took the overall effort of the entire Division's staff to keep things going throughout the main KHRIS training period ... but we all know how great they are don't we? Thanks for the awesome job you do for us!

UNDERWOOD, BOBBIE M. (JPSC) ●	366
COULTER, AMANDA H. (JPSC) ●	216
FEDDERSEN, ELIZABETH H. (CHFS)	161
GROVES, BRANDY H. (EWDC)	152
HAGER, GLENDA R. (KYTC)	140
MANN, RHONDA (CHFS)	131
OLIVER, CASSANDRA (CHFS)	126
Fontaine, Denise C (CHFS)	124
BOWLING, KRISTIE G. (KYTC)	112
MCCRystal, KATHRYN L (KYTC-then)	109
ROBINSON, CECILIA A. (CHFS)	108
YOUNG, TRACY M. (CHFS & KYTC)	106
Nix, John A. (CHFS)	105
STARKWEATHER, MICHELLE R. (JPSC)	105
Stokes, Michele L. (CHFS)	97
WRIGHT, JENNIFER T. (KYTC)	97
FRANKLIN, CHRISTY B. (KYTC)	92
PERRY, STACY M. (FIN. AND AD. C)	92
AUKERMAN, ANN M. (CHFS)	88
WOOLDRIDGE, EMILY M (CHFS)	88



Top: Specialist Tabitha Tracey participates in a training mission in Arizona. At left: Tracey takes a break and gets a fellow soldier to snap a photograph in the Alfaw Palace at Camp Victory.

Spotlight

From Page 6

with them, eat with them, spend time with them...you have Thanksgiving with them.

When they reached the end of their deployment, the unit was moved back to Kuwait. Everyone knew this was in preparation of going home; however, it was a scary time. It was not uncommon for some units to receive an "Order of Stay" which meant they would be re-deployed instead of being sent home.

Fortunately for Tracey, her unit was sent home after their initial deployment; however, at this point,

"home" for Tracey meant being sent back to her assignment in Germany.

She had to spend two months in Germany before being granted two weeks leave in order to come to her real home, the United States. She flew into Lexington where she was greeted by family and friends who she had not seen in approximately two years.

Tracey made a point to spend time with each and every one of them during her leave.

Tabitha Tracey has served her country well. She now resides in Frankfort, Kentucky with her husband, Israel, her six year old daughter, Hayli, and soon to be second daughter, who is due to arrive on April 20th.

Inmate Art Exhibit Planned By P&P's Katharine Salomon

Offenders' Work to be Collected Starting in May

A Department of Corrections employee, Katharine Salomon, is currently planning an inmate art exhibit at the University of Louisville's Hite Art Institute Galleries, Schneider Hall.

The exhibit will be titled "Bars to Walls: Inmate Art Expressions" and be held from August 19, 2011 until September 25, 2011.

A reception celebrating the official opening of the exhibit will be held at the Hite Art Institute Galleries on Thursday, August 25, from 5:30 to

7:30.

Salomon will begin collecting art on May 9th from the Kentucky DOC prisons.

A Probation and Parole Investigator out of the District Four Louisville Office, Saloman is also a doctoral student at the University of Louisville working on a Ph.D. focused in art crime.

You may remember a story about her last year when she confirmed a painting was a forgery after being given the assignment to verify its authenticity.

Salomon is being assisted with the inmate art exhibit by John Begley, Gallery Director and Co-ordinator,



Katharine Salomon

Critical and Curitorial Studies Concentration, University of Louisville.

Fellow DOC Manager Appreciates Unvarying Professionalism of Offender Information's John Hall

“Act as if what you do makes a difference ... it does.” ~ William James

We always like to take the opportunity to brag on staff in our employee newsletter - and if thank-you notes, letters, emails have been received at Central Office, we feature them here in “*Inside Corrections.*”

At right is a note Commissioner LaDonna Thompson received concerning the always exceptional help Probation & Parole Supervisor Christie Feldman receives when she calls Offender Information Branch Manager John Hall. (*As a side note or add-on to Christie's message: the DOC's Public Information Office is also extremely appreciative of Mr. Hall!*)

Below left is letter from an inmate's family who wrote the staff the Little Sandy Correctional Complex to brag on the facility, its cleanliness and the professionalism of the staff, and to also thank them for their how they are treated when they come to visit their son.

Below right, an inmate took the time to write Green River Correctional Complex Warden Randy White after the death of his brother.

The inmate was touched by the compassion shown by staff and he appreciated their assistance in making calls related to the death.

Commissioner –

I just want to say how helpful Jonathan Hall is. I know you already know he does a great job, but he is always so quick to answer questions when I have them.

Often times Commonwealth's Attorneys ask me for exact sentence calculations on a sentence scenario so they can decide to take a case to trial or make a plea offer. And a lot of times I want an expert to give me the answer because the scenario is so complicated.

There have also been instances when I am waiting to testify in a trial and need an answer right away – I have never had to wait or ask him twice. When I email him he always responds right away and never complains that I bug him! He has even offered to provide my staff training on sentence calculations.

Thanks!

Christie

(Christie Feldman, District 7 Supervisor

Probation & Parole, Newport, Ky.)

Dear Department of Corrections,

I would like to take this opportunity to say what I and my family observe at the Little Sandy Corrections Complex in Elliott County, Kentucky. We have observed the cleanest place in any of government buildings in the state, regardless of the name on the outside of the buildings. The halls, rooms, and bathrooms are so nice and floors waxed. The grounds are very clean and free of litter or other foreign matter even in this winter mass left behind. The sidewalks are cleaned.

And this observation would not be complete if I didn't make a comment on the personnel that are there. I nor my family have been treated so kind with politeness, manners, instructional if need to be in our visiting at Little Sandy Corrections Complex, as well as all the other visiting people. We go to visit and our goal is to make it as pleasant visit to see our son as well as to make our visit as easy as possible to those who work and make our visit with one we call a privilege and to have these type of people who are to serve and help. We do not go there to make it hard on anyone, as we try hard to follow the Rules and Recommendation that are set forth to make our visit positive and happy time for all.

I just want to say a special Thank You for such a nice and for the dedication of Warden Meko for his hard work and effort put forth on his behalf of making our visits special each time we walk through those doors at Little Sandy Correction Complex, as well as many other loved ones who comes from many miles to visit.

Each person who is employed there are special or this facility would not be the kind of place it is.

Warden Meko keep up this great work and maybe some of this cleanliness may be catching and they take pride in their work, too.

Best Wishes to All

Sincerely,



Ruth M. and Robert W. Herndon, parents

To: Warden, Mr. Randy White KRCC

Date 03-27-11

RE: Thanks for You Staffs Professionalism

Sir I transfer Back To A.R.C.C. Friday March 25, 2011. My Brother Pass March 26, 2011 At 2:00. I was told BY Sgt. Hampton. This office EASED Some OF the Pain I felt, with Just Kind ENCOURAGEMENT and MADE the situation Better AND ASSISTED me in contacting MY FAMILY AS WELL. The Down officer ON Each ^{Shift} WAS trully CONCERNED About MY Well BEING.

I along with MY family would like To EXTEND our Sincer words of thanks to Your Staff for MAKING our Grieving Process much EASER. Job Well Done Sir

Thank You

D.J. A.S.I.

Jail

From Page 2

these six inspectors also answer close to 600 written complaints and inquiries on jails each year, provide training for the Class D inmate

work detail program and complete staffing analysis for jails.

The two Jail Consultants, Desi Brooks and Tracey Reed, are also responsible for overseeing all new construction and renovation projects involving detention centers

across the state.

In 2010, Brooks and Reed continued to monitor four ongoing jail construction projects in Jackson, Kenton, Russell and Webster counties that began in 2009.

They also began to monitor one new project that was

started in Barren County.

These six dedicated Corrections employees play an important part to ensure that all county and regional detention centers are run in a professional manner and remain in compliance with established jail standards.

At a Glance

(Below is a brief introduction to the Kentucky Department of Corrections' Jail Inspectors & Consultants.)

Desi Brooks:

Desi is a Jail Consultant. He inspects 13 counties in the northern part of the state. He is also responsible for reviewing and monitoring all jail construction, renovation and expansion for the eastern half of the state.

Desi is a 2007 graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program and he is actively involved in the Kentucky Employees' Mediation Program. In addition he was accepted into the Governor's Minority management Program and will graduate in May 2011. He is currently serving as a Mentor in the 2011 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program. Desi began his career in Corrections at Blackburn Correctional Complex as an Officer.

In 2002 he came to Local Facilities as a Jail Specialist and was promoted to Jail

Consultant in 2006.

Tracey Reed:

Tracey is a Jail Consultant. She is responsible for inspecting 14 counties in the far western part of the state. She is also responsible for reviewing and monitoring all jail construction, renovation and expansion for the western half of the state. Tracey is currently participating in the 2011 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program.

She began her career with the Department Of Corrections in July 1992 as Probation and Parole Officer and transferred to the Division of Local Facilities in 2004.

Kirstie Willard:

Kirstie is a Program Administrator and Jail Services Specialist. She started as an intern with Local Facilities in 1999 while attending Eastern Kentucky University.

Kirstie returned to the DOC in September 2004 as a Victim Advocate with the newly formed Office of Victim Services. She transferred to the Division of Local Facilities in March of 2007 as a Jail Services Specialist. She is responsible for inspecting 14 counties in the central part of the state and oversees the

day to day operations of the Community Corrections Program which currently has 15 district programs. She also serves as the Department's PREA coordinator for all the state's full service jails.

Michael Coomer:

Michael is a Jail Services Specialist. He is responsible for inspecting 14 counties in the southeastern part of the state.

He began his career with the Department of Corrections in March 2000 with the Division of Probation & Parole. He started working with the Division of Local Facilities in January 2007.

CL Watts:

C.L. is a Jail Services Specialist. He is responsible for inspecting 15 counties in the northeastern part of the state. C.L. began his career with the Division of Probation & Parole in 1978 in Versailles. For over 18 years, he managed a caseload in the 14th Judicial District, which includes Woodford, Scott and Bourbon County.

In April 1996, he came to Central Office as Director of Probation and Parole, where he served until 2000. He left DOC for a short time including a stint of retirement, but

returned in 2003 to the Division of Local Facilities,

Charles "Chuck" Hughes:

Chuck is a Jail Services Specialist. He is responsible for inspecting 14 counties in the south central part of the state. Chuck began his career with the Department of Corrections in April 1985 at Northpoint Training Center as an Officer. In 1985, Chuck transferred to the Division of Probation & Parole in the Somerset Office.

In 1992, Chuck promoted to the position of Assistant Director for the Division of Local Facilities in Frankfort. He served six years in this position before transferring within the Division to the position of Jail Services Specialist to be closer to his home and family. Chuck has long been known for his wealth of knowledge regarding the county jails and the Kentucky Jail Standards. Even though he is no longer in Central Office he continues to be a valuable resource in drafting jail standards, construction guidelines for jails and new policies for the Division of Local Facilities. Chuck Hughes is retiring in May 2011 – he will sorely be missed.

Employee Recognition, News

DW, District Supervisor, Training Promotions Announced

Ravonne Sims Named Deputy Warden at KSR

Ravonne Sims has been promoted to Deputy Warden at the Kentucky State Reformatory (KSR) in La-Grange. Her promotion was announced on February 7th.

Sims began her career in 1999 as a Classification and Treatment Officer at the Roderer Correctional Complex (RCC) in the Assessment Center. In 2000 she received a promotion outside of the Department of Corrections as a Microbiologist I with the Department for Public Health.

Sims returned to the Department of Corrections in 2001. In 2003, she promoted to Corrections Unit Administrator I at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex (LLCC). Two years later she was promoted again and returned to KSR where she began supervising the prison's 130-bed segregation unit.

In 2007 Sims transitioned to Unit A at the Reformatory which houses approximately 700 offenders and includes the prison's Nursing Care Facility. Sims implemented and has continued to oversee KSR's dog program called: Rehabilitation and Excellence Achieved with Canines and Humans (REACH). She also currently serves as KSR's back-up Public Information Officer

Sims served on the Cor-



Ravonne Sims

rections Emergency Response Team (CERT) at RCC and LLCC from 2002-2005 and she has received training in Hostage Negotiation. In 2009 she was appointed to coordinate classification issues at Northpoint Training Center (NTC) for offenders involved in the riot that occurred in August 2009.

She is a 2006 graduate of the Department's first Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program, and is a current participant in the 2011 Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program.

Sims is a graduate of the University of Louisville where she earned bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology. She is a native of Louisville and a graduate of Bellarmine University.

John Cooper Promoted to District Supervisor

On February 1st, John Cooper was promoted to the Supervisor of the Division of



John Cooper

Probation & Parole's District 1.

District 1 encompasses Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken and Trigg counties.

"John has demonstrated the skills necessary to be a valuable addition to our leadership team," said Director of Probation and Parole Tim Carman in making the announcement.

"I am pleased to add a person with the integrity and dedication to keep the division on track in this demanding environment."

Cooper is a graduate of Murray State University, where he earned a degree in Criminal Justice. He was also named the District 1 Outstanding Employee of the Year in 2010.

Cooper began his employment with the Division of Probation and Parole in January 2002. He was as-



Carl Smith

signed to the Paducah Office but covered a caseload in Marshall County. In December 2002, he transferred to the Marshall County Office. In 2006, Cooper began writing Pre-Sentence Investigation Reports for the 42nd Judicial Circuit. He stayed there until October 2007, when he transferred to the Caldwell County Office.

Cooper is a member of the Marion Second Baptist Church. He currently resides in Crittenden County with his wife, Alicia, and their two daughters, Ashley and Shelby.

Carl Smith Promoted to Training Branch Manager

Carl Smith has been promoted to the position of Branch Manager of the Eastern Region Training Center. He assumed his new duties at the training center in Sandy

Employee Recognition, News



Showing Their Support

Top photo: All of Amanda's friends, family and co-workers who came out to Lakeview Park in Frankfort to show support for Amanda Scott posed for a quick photo. At left: The cold weather didn't deter the walkers, even some who braved the chilly temperatures to bring their babies in strollers. It didn't even stop a friend on crutches ... nothing stood in the way of Amanda's friends showing their support of her and her amazing accomplishment. (Pictured with stroller is Janeen Lewis, pictured on crutches is Kelly Thomas)

Amanda

From Page 5

pounds to go.”

The biggest change has been substituting bad foods for good ones. She doesn't just count calories; she knows what's in the foods she chooses.

And, a la Thursday night, she walks. She works for the state Department of Corrections in the classification branch, and a friend walks 4 miles with her on their lunch break.

Another coworker, Paula Holden, taught Amanda several exercises and has encouraged her progress. Paula organized the event Thursday as well as a “Day of 100s” party in February when Amanda first hit the 100-pound goal.

“I've just really admired how hard she has worked,” Paula said Thursday. “We all want to show her how much we're behind her.”

During the “Day of 100s,” coworkers gave Amanda 100 pennies, 100 pens, 100 diet Cokes, 100 pieces of gum, \$100, and the pinnacle was an envelope with a list of 100 people who agreed to walk a mile with her on March 24.

After group photos and a cheer in Amanda's honor, the group set out around 6 p.m.

Every age, from infants in strollers to men and women in their 80s, made the march, with several dogs in tow.

One friend – amazing in her own right – made the trek with a broken foot and crutches.

“I volunteered to do this before I was on crutches,” said Kelly Thomas, who broke her foot six weeks ago after slipping on ice. “I still wanted to do it though ... what she has done is amazing.”

Amanda's mom, Reba, was beaming just like her daughter. She explained how Haiti had changed Amanda's mindset in many ways.

“Amanda is just a very giving person, and now she's given to helping people in Haiti,” she said.

As time passes, it's easy to enjoy ease in America and forget about poverty in Haiti, Amanda says.

To keep the reality fresh, she put one of the photos she took of Haitian children on her debit card – that way she's accountable for every dollar she spends.

“When I hand that card to a cashier, I have to see that and go, ‘OK. They don't have anything. Do I really need this?’”

Amanda has no current plans to return to Haiti. For now, she feels she can better help Haitians by raising awareness about their needs.

“I hope to be the voice and message for the people who can't speak for themselves there,” she said.

She encourages everyone to research what they can do to give to Haiti and suggests those interested visit HaitianChristianmission.org.

Memorial Gift



Blackburn Correctional Complex Warden Don Bottom presented a \$500 check donated from the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation to Linda Fallis. Fallis is a Property Officer at BCC and her son Scottie Fallis passed away on January 9th, 2011.

Promotions

From Page 11

Hook on Feb. 16, 2011.

Division of Corrections Training Chris Kleymeyer made the announcement.

“Carl Smith has been instrumental in the success of the Eastern Region Training Center (ERTC) since its inception in 2004,” said Kleymeyer. “He is a proven professional with the experience and skills necessary to lead the ERTC and ensure its continued success.”

Smith began his employment with the Department of Corrections as a Correctional Officer at the Roederer Correctional Complex in June 1989.

In January 1990, he transferred to the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) where he assisted with the opening of that facility.

Smith was promoted to Correctional Sergeant in 1991 and was again promoted in 1993 to Correctional Lieutenant.

He was a member of the Corrections Emergency Response Team for 11 years while at EKCC. In 2004, Smith received a promotion to Instructor/Coordinator and was transferred to the ERTC where he again assisted with the opening of that facility.

Smith is the recipient of a Deputy Commissioner’s award for his hard work and dedication to the Department of Corrections.



HB 463

From Page 1

opportunities for offenders who need help.

The law also strengthens probation and parole laws by basing key decisions on the risk posed by offenders and improving supervision, and links offenders to appropriate community resources.

“Of all the problems I inherited, this is one of the most complex,” Gov. Beshear said.

“In early 2008, I directed Justice & Public Safety Secretary J. Michael Brown to convene the Criminal Justice Council and report back on recommendations for

“This bill takes major steps to both decrease recidivism while addressing the unique problems Kentucky faces with substance abuse in ways that absolutely enhance public safety.”

J. Michael Brown

*Justice & Public Safety
Cabinet Secretary*

curbing the rising prison population. That report, and the work of subsequent work groups, provided the groundwork for much of these reforms.”

“This bill takes major steps to both decrease recidivism while addressing the unique problems Kentucky faces with substance abuse in ways that absolutely enhance public safety,” said Justice Secretary J. Michael Brown.

HB 463 is the product of recommendations from an unprecedented bipartisan, inter-branch task force that included legislators, the Chief Justice, officials from the Justice Cabinet, prosecutors and local officials.

The task force was aided by the guidance and expertise of the Pew Center on the States, and supported by \$200,000 from the executive branch budget.

Two documents have been created by DOC Legislative Liaison Ruth Edwards and Population Management Director Paula Holden to help educate DOC employees on the legislation. They can be found on the Department’s Intranet site. Below are links to those documents.

<http://intranet.corrections.ky.gov/sites/default/files/HB463-Index.pdf>

<http://intranet.corrections.ky.gov/sites/default/files/HB463%20Summary.pdf>

Re-Entry ... A Second Chance



Roederer Correctional Complex (RCC) Records System Administrator Dennis Foy was the winner of the poster contest for staff member entries. He received \$50 for his entry. His entry will also be printed on T-shirts. Foy is pictured above with RCC Warden James Sweatt.

Poster Contest Winners Announced

The Kentucky Department of Corrections is committed to re-entry for all offenders, so a contest for inmates, parolees and staff was held to design a poster with the theme "Second Chance to Make a First Impression."

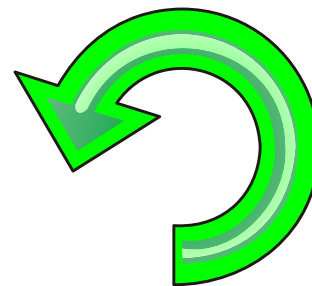
The entries were impressive and the Kentucky Alliance for Re-Entry (KARE) committee selected winners for each category. The winners are listed below and received kudos from the executive staff, as well as cash prizes. Inmates are listed with the institution they were at when their artwork was submitted.

Roederer Correctional Complex Staff member Dennis Foy was the Adult Institutions winner and he received \$50 for his entry. His entry will also be printed on T-shirts.

Parolee Mark Brown was the contest winner for District 16 and he received \$50 for his entry. Inmates Greg Morrison (EKCC) and Phillip Bratcher (EKCC) tied for 1st place and each received \$50. Inmates Jason Porter (KSR), David Wheatley (KSR) and Wallace Redd (KSR) tied for 2nd place and each received \$25 for their entry.

The entries will be printed as posters and displayed in correctional facilities and district offices throughout the state in the coming months.

Entry from Inmate Phillip Bratcher, EKCC



Have you ever wished you could just hit the "Re-do" button of life?

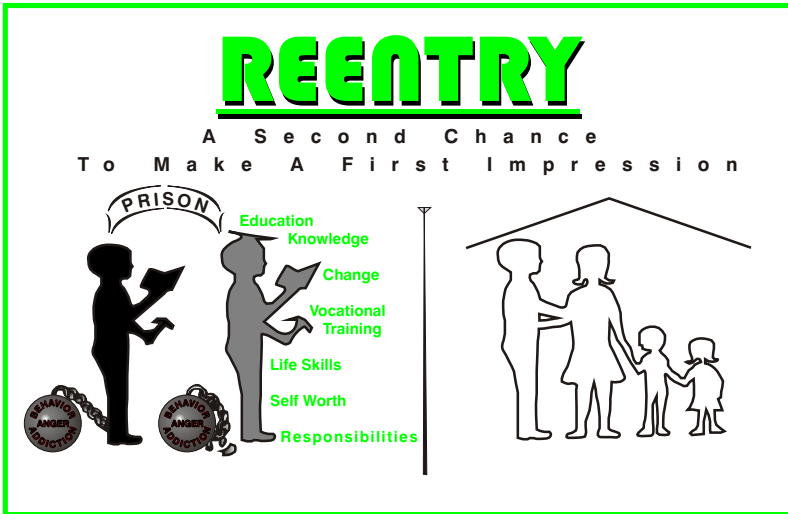
**Re-entry:
A Second Chance
to Make
a First Impression**

Staff Member Dennis Foy's Entry - RCC

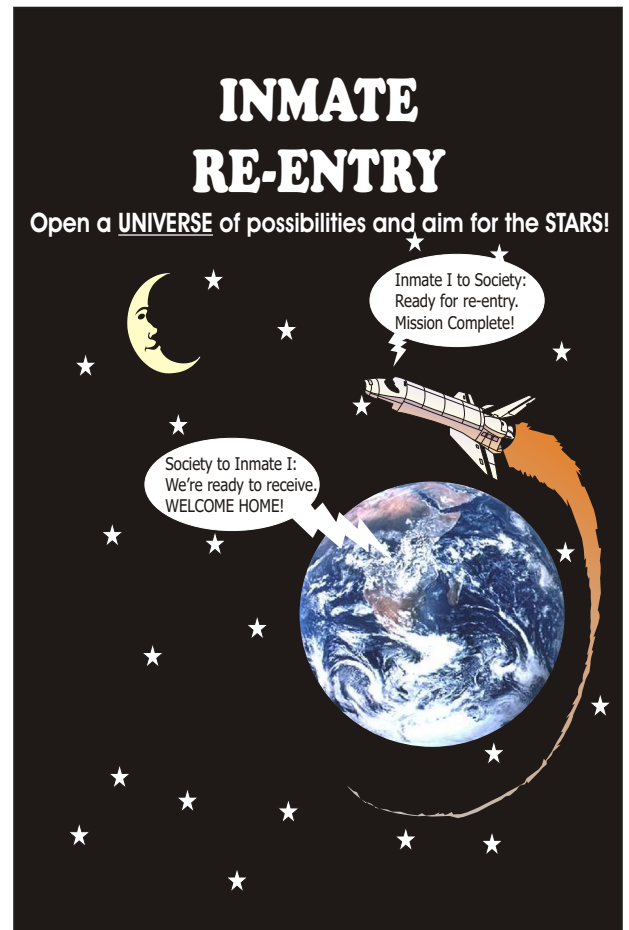
More Re-Entry Poster Contest Winners!



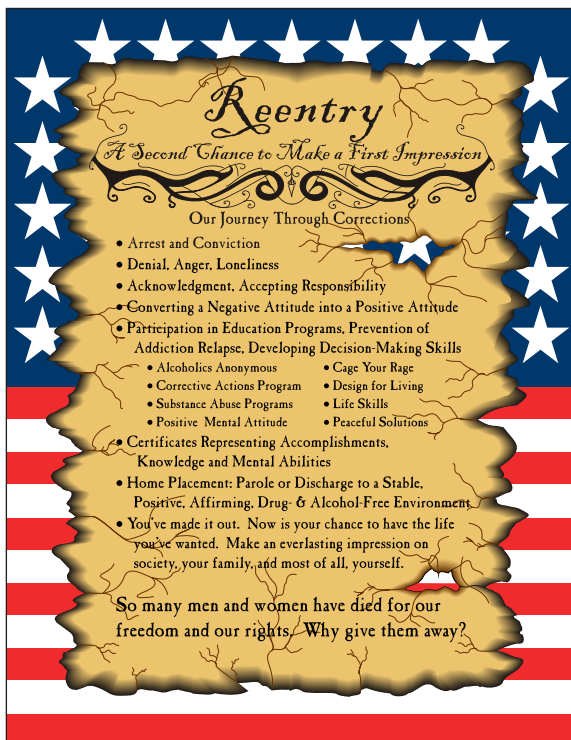
Inmate Jason Porter- KSR



Left: Inmate Wallace Reed - KSR



Inmate David Wheatley - KSR



Entry from
Inmate Greg
Morrison, EKCC

Music

From Page 1

contradiction for a mild-mannered musician. But Kinslow sees things differently.

“There are a lot of similarities,” he said. “They both take teamwork. If an orchestra doesn’t perform as a team, it fails. If there’s no teamwork at the prison, someone could get hurt.

“You’ve got to be on top of your game all the time at either place. There are no second chances. Neither place has a safety net.”

Kinslow first picked up a trombone as a fifth-grader in Caldwell County and played in the marching band through high school. He switched from trombone to tuba, both brass instruments that require a good sense of pitch, and he picked up on it quickly. Music made sense to him when he struggled with academics.

With his love of music, he assumed that he should pursue a career in music, but his passion didn’t translate into a desire to teach. He majored in music education at Murray State University, but he quit and stumbled as he tried to find a suitable career path.

“I couldn’t find a job, not at McDonald’s or anything,” he said.

He heard that the Graves County Jail was hiring, but he didn’t know anything about corrections.

“It turns out that I’m pretty good at it,” Kinslow said. “I could always communicate with culturally different people. That makes a huge difference. You have to keep in the back of your mind that you’re human. One mistake, one lapse of judgment, and you could be there.”

Kinslow rose to supervisor during his four-year tenure, but a career in music knocked on his door again when he accepted a job at a music repair shop. Kinslow happily spent his days surrounded by instruments, fixing them until the sounds resonated again. But when the store sold, he found himself again without a job and wondering what to do next.

“I was decent at corrections,” he said.



Morgan Kinslow, a Correctional Officer on the midnight shift at Kentucky State Penitentiary, plays the tuba with the Paducah Symphony Orchestra. Pictured above is Morgan with his two daughters, Audrey and Courtney, ages 6 and 1. (Photo by John Wright)

When a job at the prison opened three years ago, he didn’t think twice and moved his family from Paducah back to his native Caldwell County.

Kinslow said the job of a corrections officer is 98 percent mental and 2 percent physical. “The hardest thing is finding the balance between being an officer and still being yourself,” he said. “You’re not going in and trying to be John Wayne.”

Through all the career switching, music has been a constant in his life. He has played tuba for the Paducah Symphony Orchestra for 13 years. He tries to practice his horn a minimum of 30 minutes a day, but it’s difficult to balance with his job and his return to school, where he is studying for a bachelor’s in psychology and counseling.

He has told several inmates at the prison about his musical habits outside work. And they’ve told him about their musical talents.

“You would never know (about their music) unless you walk across the yard and hear them,” he said. “Some are very talented musicians and artists. They have the time to cultivate that.”

Kinslow maintains his corrections officer persona until he drives through the gate after each shift. His mind then turns to his passion. “Music is my playtime.”

Earlier this winter, Kinslow flipped his truck after skidding on ice between the prison and his home. His mind immediately wandered to the condition of his tuba that he had stashed in his back seat. Three of his fellow officers saw the wreckage and stopped, and he asked one to check on his tuba.

“I don’t allow anyone to touch my tuba, but he got the horn out of the car. He opened it up and said there was one dent on it.”

It turns out that the dent was old. The tuba’s water key popped off, but it was unharmed.

“I was really lucky,” he said. “What business do I have hauling around an expensive instrument?”

Have instrument, will travel.

(This story was written by Leigh Landini Wright and published in “Posh,” a publication of the Paducah Sun. The story and photo are reprinted with permission of the Paducah Sun.)

BEFORE & AFTERrrrr... THE PLUNGE!



Top Photo: A 'Before the Plunge' photo: front row (left to right) Amanda Dunning, Danielle Taylor, Leigh Ann Duncan, and DeEdra Hart. Middle row (left to right) Barry Dycus, Vanessa Kennedy, Andy Duncan, Wayne Baker, and Leigh Jent. Back row (left to right) Debbie Wicker, and Jon Tangerose. Above: 'After the Plunge' and still Smiling! Leigh Jent, Vanessa Kennedy, DeEdra Hart, Wayne Baker, Leigh Ann Duncan, Andy Duncan, Danielle Taylor, Jon Tangerose, and Amanda Dunning.

Four Rivers KCCD Members/ WKCC Staffers Take the Plunge

Members of the Four Rivers Chapter of the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency (KCCD) took the plunge Feb. 19th at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in the 2011 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. The KCCD members are all employees of the Western Kentucky Correctional Complex

plunge!" The 11-member team raised \$2,008.61 for Special Olympics and was awarded the Law Enforcement Award for most money raised in that division.

Polar Plunge Team members included: Amanda Dunning, Danielle Taylor, Leigh Ann Duncan, DeEdra Hart, Barry Dycus, Vanessa Kennedy, Andy Duncan, Wayne Baker, Leigh Jent, Debbie Wicker and Jon Tangerose.



The Louisville Chapter of KCCD also took part in the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics with employees Nick Dailey (Luther Lockett Correctional Complex) and Sharon Veech (Roederer Correctional Complex) supporting the cause. They were in turn supported by Dailey's wife, Heather, who also participated. In the top photo, the announcer looks like he might have to be doing a little bit of encouraging to the trio, pictured left to right: Nick, Sharon and Heather. Above, they were all smiles after the event.

MORE CHILLY PLUNGE PHOTOS!

At right: Northpoint Training Center (NTC) Deputy Warden David Gilpin holds the trophy the DOC employees won during the 2011 Polar Plunge for Special Olympics awarded for the largest Law Enforcement Team. Below: Gilpin prepares to jump with fellow NTC Officer Jamie Moreland, and Lt. Daniel Napier. Middle: Probation & Parole Director Michael Bolcas jumps with his son, Michael and his son's girlfriend, Libby Boyd. Bottom right: NTC's Bridget Gilliland and Beth Moore, Frankfort Career Development Center were part of the award-winning team and posed for a photo after the

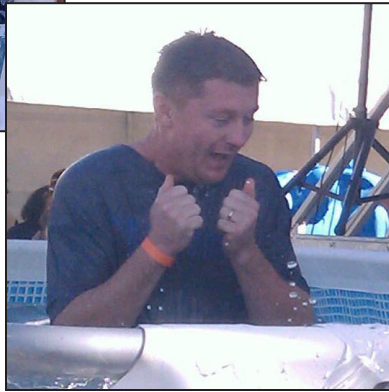


A team representing the Department of Corrections and made up of employees from institutions and probation and parole jumped in Lexington this year to benefit Special Olympics. The team took the prize for the largest Law Enforcement Team: Above: Front Row (left to right): Michael G. Bolcas, Robin Green, Beth Moore, Libby Boyd, Brooke Ferguson and Bridget Gilliland. Back Row (left to right): Michael A. Bolcas, Monty Corbett, Derek Vonckx, Abby Dillingham, Dawn Case and David Gilpin.



the PLUNGE

Blackburn Correctional Complex fielded a team representing the institution and the Bluegrass Chapter of KCCD for the 2011 Polar Plunge. Team members were: Deputy Warden Brandy Harm, Warden Don Bottom, Kerry Lauth, Ray Sandy, Allison Bingner, Mike Caudill, Larry Betts, Sharon Johnson, Nathan Aseltine, Brian Evans, Allison Medley and Tim Taulbee. Above: Going in the water (left to right): Brandy Harm, Tim Taulbee and Allison Medley. Middle photo: Brandy Harm and Tim Taulbee exit the pool. At right: Mike Caudill shivers in the cold water after his jump.



Above: A 'Before the Plunge' photo from the Louisville Probation & Parole team "Chillin Charter Bears." The team jumped at Tumbleweed on the River in Louisville. Team members included: Greg Kosse, Jon Borie, Jim Wagner, Kaylan Gilkey, and Lisa Gilkey. Top right: District 19 Supervisor Jim Wagner exits the pool. Right: One, two, three ... JUMP. The team bravely enters the pool.





ACA Managers

On January 13, 2011 an Accreditation Managers meeting was held at KCI headquarters in Frankfort, Kentucky. It was chaired by John Dunn, Executive Staff Advisor, who is the State Accreditation Manager for the KY-DOC. The meeting was held to go over the Department's new Electronic ACA file system (*more on that in the next issue!*) and to discuss any issues concerning accreditation at the facilities and divisions. Those attending included (left to right): Francis Lacy, Regina Moore, Sarah Potter, Adam Wilhite, Shannon Butrum, Jenny Noe, John Dunn, Debra Banks, Sherri Grissinger, Mendalyn Cochran, Erica Greene, Vance Lockhart, Adam Noles, Debbie Judd, Amanda Boggs, Carolyn Grubb, and Josh Ison.



Sneak Preview

**Coming in
June ...**

**A Story On DOC's
Capital Construction
Management Branch**