Top 2006 Correctional Officers honored

APEX - Ten Division of Prisons employees were cited as 2006 Correctional Officers of the Year at an awards ceremony on May 9 at the Office of Staff Development & Training Center.

Chief Deputy Secretary Dan Stieneke, Prisons Director Boyd Bennett, colleagues, friends and family honored the officers at the ceremony, where the officers received distinctive certificates.

Two officers were recognized for heroism that saved two lives.

Eight others were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the department, one posthumously and one recently retired.

Cited were:
- **Eastern Region** - Correctional Officer Vanessa Lee, Pasquotank Correctional Institution (CI); and the late Correctional Officer Charles Lofton, Neuse CI.
- **Central Region** - Food Service Officer Douglas Harris, Polk CI; and Sgt. William Herring, Johnston CI.
- **Piedmont Region** - Sgt. Norman Marley, Southern CI; and Correctional Officer Chris Senif, Durham Correctional Center (CC).
- **South Central Region** - Lt. Freddie Malloy (retired), New Hanover CC; and Sgt. Larron Locklear, Lumberton CI.
- **Western Region** - Lt. James “Bo” Goodson, Foothills CI; and Correctional Officer Marvin Freeman, Rutherford CC.

Gov. Michael Easley declared May 8-12 as Correctional Officers Week in observance of the important public safety work done by more than 11,000 correctional officers in North Carolina’s 77 prisons.

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**Officials open new prison in Bertie County**

WINDSOR - Correction Secretary Theodis Beck joined legislators and local officials on May 22 to celebrate the opening of the new Bertie Correctional Institution, which is expected to provide more than 400 jobs to Bertie County.

“To the community, the prison will mean new jobs and economic opportunities,” Beck said. “To the Department of Correction this new prison will bring some relief from a growing

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REMINDER
June 30, 2006, is the deadline for Open Enrollment in the State Health Plans new Preferred Provider Organization (PPO).
Pamlico Correctional Institution, near Bayboro in Pamlico County, is a medium custody unit, housing 576 male inmates, with a staff of 209 employees.

It is one of two North Carolina prisons that were opened in 1998 as private facilities, owned and operated by Corrections Corporation of America. In October 2000, the Department of Correction assumed operational management of Pamlico CI, purchasing it in 2004.

The superintendent is Michael Lamm. His management team is Michael Hardee, assistant superintendent for custody and operations; Belinda Dudley, assistant superintendent for programs; and Vicki Courtney, administrative officer.

Two units house the regular population, with 264 single cells in each. The segregation unit contains 48 single cells, with 24 cells dedicated to close and medium custody intensive control housing, and 24 cells for administrative or disciplinary segregation.

The entire facility is encircled with an electronic intrusion, taut wire security system.

A Prison Industry Enterprise is operated by Bob Barker of Fuquay-Varina. The sewing plant constructs inmate clothing and other materials used in prisons nationwide. They employ an average of 25 inmates, and pay a prevailing wage set by the Employment Security Commission.

Educational endeavors are afforded by working in conjunction with Pamlico Community College. Classes include electrical wiring, masonry, carpentry, horticulture, information systems, adult basic education and the general education diploma. Graduation ceremonies are conducted each spring for the inmates and their families.

Rehabilitation and treatment programs include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Napoleon Hill, and Thinking for a Change.

Both staff and inmates at Pamlico CI are active in the community at Christmas time.

Staff have an annual tradition of adopting families through the Department of Social Services. Clothing, toys and food are donated. The Inmate Men’s Club traditionally donates 10 bicycles with helmets to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Campaign. Staff are also active in the State Employees Combined Campaign and the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Pamlico CI is somewhat unique in that it has been a site for military exercises involving U.S. Navy and NATO forces. Fighter jets roared overhead, tanks and missiles (plastic models) See SPOTLIGHT, page 3
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stood guard in the field by the prison, and
Navy SEALs carried out maneuvers in the
woods. The grounds of Pamlico CI and
numerous locations across eastern North
Carolina have been used several times in
exercises involving approximately 26,000
soldiers, sailors and Marines. Because the
entire operation took place outside the
prison’s perimeter fences, it was business as
usual for Pamlico’s inmates and staff inside
the facility.

Pamlico CI is the county’s largest em-
ployer, after the school system. The facility
also contributes to the county’s economy by
using local vendors whenever possible. Three
meals a day are provided to the county jail.
Brian Marley, sergeant, Southern CI, Troy

Marley was chosen for his work ethic and positive effects on the operations of Southern Correctional Institution.

An 18-year veteran of the Division of Prisons, Marley has worked virtually every post at Southern. He occasionally serves as an acting unit manager when needed. His managers speak highly of his leadership and mentoring skills.

“He ensures responsibility by monitoring subordinate staff, providing feedback, evaluations and taking appropriate corrective actions to supervise staff and inmates,” Capt. William Hayes wrote in his nomination of Marley.

Marley has been a voluntary firefighter for 21 years at the Robbins Fire Department. He is a native of Robbins, where he has been president and vice president of the Highfalls Elementary School PTA.

Vanessa Lee, correctional officer
Pasquotank CI, Elizabeth City

Lee was recognized for an act of bravery last summer at Pasquotank Correctional Institution.

She was helping Assistant Unit Manager Ronald Snyder detain an inmate, when the inmate suddenly turned violent and attacked Snyder. Lee tried to help twice, but was also knocked down and beaten by the inmate.

Other staff members responded and ended the inmate’s assault.

Nominating her for the award, Assistant Superintendent Melvin Horton wrote that Lee “exhibited both heroism and bravery by coming to Mr. Snyder’s aid during an assault.” Lee’s heroic intervention resulted in injuries that still prevent her return to work.

She has a degree from the College of the Albemarle and a diploma from Kee Business College, has been employed at Pasquotank CI since 2001.
William Herring
sergeant, Johnston CI, Smithfield

Herring was awarded for an act of bravery in March.

On his way home from work, Herring saw a garbage truck run off the road and turn over as it plowed down an embankment. Herring ran to check on the driver and found that he was bleeding badly and a fire had begun under the truck's dashboard.

Despite the fire's danger to himself, Herring pounded the back window of the truck cab until it broke so he could pull the driver free. Herring stayed with the driver until emergency medical personnel arrived.

Nominating Sgt. Herring for the award, Capt. Eddie Thompson wrote, "Sgt. Herring's heroic actions surely prevented injury or death to the driver of this vehicle."

Herring is also a Mason and a Shriner.

Marvin Freeman
correctional officer; Rutherford CC, Spindale

Freeman was recognized for using his communication and management skills to enhance the overall operation of Rutherford CC.

A 29-year Department of Correction veteran, he supervises the kitchen and dining hall, leading a staff of two food service officers and inmate kitchen workers. Freeman has worked his whole career at Rutherford, serving as a transportation officer, clothes house supervisor, community work program officer and occasionally as officer-in-charge.

"Officer Freeman's most notable asset is his ability to communicate with the inmate population," said recently-retired Superintendent Johnny Poteat. "He is one of those officers with the unique ability to intervene in any situation and defuse it."

James “Bo” Goodson
lieutenant, Foothills CI, Morganton

Goodson was recognized for outstanding work as the intelligence officer at Foothills CI.

He has been instrumental in the identification and validation of gang members at the prison and at neighboring Western Youth Institution, where he worked from 1996 to 2003.

He assisted in the planning and development of the Security Threat Group management unit, which opened at Foothills last year. He also helped develop the Division of Prisons' policy on security threat groups (gangs).

"As an intelligence officer, he has aggressively pursued collecting intelligence and swiftly provided management with information that allowed action to be taken to prevent injuries to staff and inmates," Assistant Superintendent Barbara Belas wrote in her nomination.

Goodson is working with the Burke County Sheriff’s office to develop a community awareness program on gangs. He is also on the Western Region Prison Emergency Response Team. As a volunteer for the Burke County Rescue Squad on its swift water rescue team and its dive recovery team, he often shares his water safety and first aid expertise in presentations to Scouts and civic groups.

Laron Locklear
sergeant, Lumberton CI

Recognized for his dedication to excellence, Locklear takes the initiative to exceed expectations, according to Assistant Superintendent Ron Surles, who nominated Locklear.

Locklear volunteered for assignments that required attention to accurate detail, computer and writing skills, and trustworthiness in accounting skills. In 2000, Locklear was named an Officer Mentor, a role that revealed his considerable training skills. He ensures that officers are thoroughly trained, while maintaining a positive attitude and being a role model for other officers. Because of his aptitude for training others, he has successfully completed several instructor courses.

"Sgt. Locklear's high level of productivity and exceptional work significantly impact the overall operation of Lumberton Correctional Institution," Surles wrote.

Freddie Malloy (retired)
lieutenant
New Hanover CC
Wilmington

Malloy was recognized for skillfully managing a major schedule change at New Hanover Correctional Center.

He successfully led the conversion of the facility's shifts from 8 hours to 12 shortly before his retirement on May 1, after a 26-year career in corrections. Working with the implementation team, Malloy held numerous meetings, conducted briefings, visited other 12-hour shift prisons, and trained staff. He was also involved in making necessary revisions to procedures, post orders and security plans.

Meanwhile, Malloy continued to carry out his duties as officer-in-charge, segregation monitor and interview team member. Additionally, Malloy’s participation was critical to the success of employee selection for the Women’s Residential Facility.

In nominating Malloy for the award, Superintendent Ennis Oates wrote, "He handles all tasks superbly ... As a result, the conversion ... has lifted morale among staff members.”
Staff and inmates from three prisons and numerous community volunteers joined forces on May 13 in an all-out effort to clean more than 100 miles of Lake James shoreline.

More than 150 staff and inmate volunteers from Marion Minimum Security Unit, Rutherford Correctional Center and Foothills Minimum Custody Unit participated in the lake clean-up. More than 20,000 pounds of debris were removed from the lake, along with 23 tires, in the four-hour event.

Participants -- including community volunteers, Department of Correction officials, and officials from McDowell, Rutherford and Burke counties -- met on the water to culminate the collaborative effort of one of the largest waterway clean-ups in western North Carolina.

Three honor students recently emerged from basic correctional officer training: Randy Miller, Bertie Correctional Institution, scored 96 on the final exam; Allen Davis, Bladen Correctional Center, scored 95; Jeremy Haire, Scotland Correctional Institution, scored 95; and Evan Like, Central Prison, scored 95.

On May 22, correctional staff from the Brown Creek, Lanesboro and Anson correctional facilities participated in the fifth annual Torch Run for the Special Olympics, a fund-raiser by law enforcement and prison employees statewide for the state Special Olympics. Donating their time, effort and sweat to make sure that the torch was delivered to Richmond County on time were: Lt. James Dycus; Sergeants Michael Taylor and Janet Vick (event coordinator); Officers George Aldridge, Robert Allen, Gwynn Basinger, Joe Beaman, Brinnon Raffaldt, Donny Ratliff and Ronald Renfro; Assistant Superintendent-Custody/Operations Kevin King; Program Director Jack Driggers; and Personnel Assistant Linda Driggers.
The NC Department of Correction’S Special Operations Response Team (S.O.R.T.) traveled to Moundsville, WVa. to compete in the Mock Prison Riot Skills Competition on May 6-7. Twenty-three police SWAT, military police, sheriff department and state corrections special response teams from across the country competed in the two-day event.

Twenty-six teams competed in the Super SWAT Cop competition, which was composed of weapon fire, target identification and physical fitness. Sgt. Arturo Andino who works at Central Prison, took first place in the competition setting a record time for the event. The NC S.O.R.T. competed in the team event, a five-stage test of physical fitness and tactical and shooting skills. The S.O.R.T. finished seventh overall among all the nationwide teams that competed.

S.O.R.T. was also asked to stay for the seminar and give tactical demonstrations on re-taking a bus captured by inmates with a hostage on the bus.

S.O.R.T. also demonstrated the tactics for stopping a moving sedan stolen by escapees who had taken the driver hostage.

Officers, from page 1

In the ceremony’s keynote message, Stieneke cited the officers’ high level of professionalism.

“These officers are excellent representatives, and they are representatives of excellence,” he said. “These role model officers are ambassadors for their facilities, for the Department of Correction, and for the State of North Carolina. Correctional Officers are indeed professionals.”

Correctional officers are responsible for the supervision and housing needs of more than 37,500 inmates in North Carolina prisons. Their primary duty is the safe, secure and orderly operation of the prison and effective response to crisis situations. The officers may also staff security towers, supervise inmates in dormitories or on road squads, transport inmates or train tracking dogs.

The DOC team | From left, front row, Sgt. Michael Wilson, Dan River PWF; Sgt. Arturo Andino, Central Prison; and Correctional Officer James McLain, Scotland CI. Rear row, Lt. Jeff Blackmon, Harnett CI; Lt. James Dycus, Brown Creek; Correctional Officer Dendray Ballard, Pamlico CI; Lt. Daryl Vann, prison management; Lt. Dave Dixon, Dan River PWF; Lt. Denise Henderson, prison management; Lt. Robert Bilberry, Sampson CI; and Lt. Hector Ramos, Pender CI.

On the rope | Above James Dycus, left, and James McLain, shimmy along a rope.

Ready to strike | Right, preparing for a simulated hostage rescue assault, from left, Arturo Andino, Jeff Blackmon, Dendray Ballard, Robert Bilberry and James Dycus.

SORT does well in national event

The employees of the Department of Correction have a history of helping their neighbors, and that is what the State Employees Combined Campaign is all about. In 2005, the Department of Correction raised a total of $505,879, with an average gift of $162. Even though fewer employees participated, the average gift was higher in 2005. Special Olympics of North Carolina received the largest portion (70%) of the total pledged in DOC. At 6%, the American Red Cross was second, and at 4% each the American Cancer Society and Samaritan’s Purse were third. Above are the DOC campaign goal winners, Debbie Pauley, from Combined Records, and Vicki Massey, in Safety, who were campaign goal winners.

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Honor Guard cited at ceremony

At the May 9 ceremony honoring the top correctional officers for 2006, the Division of Prisons also extended special recognition to its Honor Guard.

The unit of volunteer officers are often called upon to honor a deceased employee or retiree at a funeral or memorial service. Other events that call upon their services are minority Pioneers, conferences and new facility openings.

They also serve at any other event approved by the chief of security or director of prisons.

The group has members statewide, and they frequently have to respond on short notice.

The Honor Guard was begun in 1986 and commissioned in 1987 by Gov. Jim Martin. The team consisted of 22 members at that time. Shortly afterward, an additional 10-member squad was approved, because of growing demand for the unit's services.

Leonard Hatley, a captain at NC Correctional Institution for Women in Raleigh, was named its colonel (commander) in 1990. He has led the group since. The assistant commander is Everett Green, a correctional officer at Sanford CI.

Other members are: Capt. Warren Downing, Pasquotank CI; Lt. Kimberly Johnson, Craven CI; Sgt. Edgar Barrow, Tyrrell PWF; Sgt. Adrienne Graham, Harrell CI; Sgt. James Davis, Cleveland CI; Lead Officer Leland Gibbs, Hyde CI; Correctional Officers William Gibson (Hoke CI), Dean Stump (Columbus CI), Earl Fobbs (Tillery CI) and Jean Patterson (Caldwell CI); Sonya Stancill, programs director, Neuse CI; and Roger Stott, Correction Enterprises, Marion CI.

Eleven other officers are training to join the Honor Guard.