



# Impact Georgia

November 2013 Newsletter



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Have a great story idea?

Send to  
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## CERT Teams Display Tactical Skills, Competitive Spirit During Fourth Annual Commissioner's Cup Challenge



CERT members scale a log ladder during the obstacle course portion of the Commissioner's Challenge held at the Georgia Diagnostic & Classification Prison (GACP) Training Center. Eleven teams competed for the coveted Commissioner's Cup, testing their skills in a variety of events.

Story & Photos By Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

The day began with a bang as Corrections Emergency Reaction Team members took to the firearms range for the Fourth Annual Commissioner's Challenge, held Oct. 18. It's a friendly, but fierce competition between CERTs from 11 different facilities throughout the state, and tests the knowledge, leadership and physical fitness of every team member. This year's winning team was Ware State Prison.

In addition to the Obstacle course, teams were required to demonstrate proficiency in policy and procedures, firearms, and work together to devise solutions to complex problems during the leadership course. This is the culminating event in a year's worth of preparation for the teams, but the hard work is more than worth it.

(see CHALLENGE Pg. 2)

## Employees Honored at Quarterly Awards

On Oct. 29, the Department held the Quarterly Awards Ceremony for the third quarter of 2013 in Roberts Chapel at State offices South at Tift College.

The Award Recipients are as follows:

### CORRECTIONS

**PO of the Quarter**  
Sherrill Warren  
*Augusta Circuit*

**CO of the Quarter**  
Kelesha Walker  
*Johnson SP*

### **Customer Service Champion**

Elaine Crawford  
*Probation RCC*

### **Unsung Heroes**

Wilson Hall, Mark Moll, Jimmy White, Brad Johnson, Alan Coody, Linnequa McClin, Dedrick Bell, James Blair, Dantavis Fluellen, Elgia Gamble, Tony Griffin, Nathaniel Harper, Drake Head, Ternandez Head, Geoffrey Hurst, Rashaan Jackson, Tamika Johnson, Jonathan Keen, Erick Miles, Mack Payne, Lee Reynolds, Ira Stone, Earnest Tyler, Jerrod Walker and Daveion Zellner.  
*Special Ops Command Staff and Cobra Squad*

### OPERATIONS, PLANNING & TRAINING

#### **Customer Service Champion**

Officer Christopher Boynton  
*Campus Operations*

**Unsung Hero**  
Uzoma Anadu  
*Risk Reduction*

### ADMINISTRATION

Customer Service Champion  
Barbara Burns  
*Central Purchasing*

(See AWARDS pg 2)

## Calendar Events

**Monday, November 4**  
Open Enrollment Benefits Fair

**Tuesday, November 5**  
SCCP Fitness Walk

LASP "Dog Program" Grand Opening

**Thursday, November 7**  
Board of Corrections Meeting

**Friday, November 8**  
Wardens vs. CPOs Challenge @ GDC Firearms Range

**Monday, November 11**  
Veteran's Day  
\*\*HOLIDAY\*\*

**Thursday, November 14**  
SCCP Cafeteria Service

**Wednesday, November 20**  
SCCP "Jail Bail" &  
SCCP "Pie in the Eye"

**Thursday, November 28**  
**Friday, November 29**  
Thanksgiving Day  
\*\*HOLIDAY\*\*

### AWARDS (from Pg 1)

**Unsung Hero**  
Elaine Williams  
*Budget Services*

**Customer Service Champion**  
Yvette Crawford  
*CHRM*

**Unsung Hero**  
Richard Chromi  
*Intelligence*

### FAITHFUL SERVICE AWARDS

**5 Years**  
Litiki Jackson  
Kathleen Denk  
Donald Williams  
Joan Heath  
Kenneth Mantle

**10 Years**  
Jason Etheridge  
Kristin Hosford  
Charlene Laster  
Wendy Mazula

Suresh Ganesapandhan

Joseph Gudivada  
Dilip Kumar Mehra  
Janusz Mynarz  
Veeraraghavan Sridhar  
James Gilley  
Timothy Jackson  
Tammy Blount  
Gene Quinn  
Rao Manekar

**15 Years**  
Beverly Dunn  
Kiatana Everett  
Cathy Smith  
Mae Snelson  
Ricky Albright  
Yvette Crawford  
Ricky Foskey  
Letieia Smith

**20 Years**  
Shirley Blalock  
Winniw Colbert  
Thomas Everett  
Lillie Wainwright  
Sharon Kelso

**25 Years**  
Debra Williams

Becky East

**30 Years**  
Dane Dasher



(L to R) Commissioner Brian Owens, Dir. of Probation Operations Mike Kraft, PO of the Quarter Sherrill Warren, Asst. Commissioners Timothy Ward and Gregory Dozier



(L to R) Commissioner Brian Owens, Division Director of Administration Becky East, Budget Analyst Lillie Rogers Wainwright, Asst. Commissioners Timothy Ward and Gregory Dozier

## Senior Staff Tour Virginia Prisons, Exchange Ideas

Content Contributed by Nancy Smith

On Oct. 10, GDC senior staff members of the Department of corrections got an inside look at Virginia's Progressive Housing Phase Program used to manage offenders in segregation due to recent disruptive behaviors, assaultive behaviors, severe behavior problems, predatory-type behaviors, and escape risks. They also exchanged information about Georgia Department of Corrections tier system with Virginia officials. Assistant Commissioner Timothy C. Ward, Facilities Deputy Director Rick Jacobs, Tier Management System Manager Betty Bailey-Dean, Facilities Field Services/Special Projects Nancy Smith, Risk Reduction Services Director Sherri Bloodworth, Risk Reduction Services Senior Manager Donna Tebought, and Tennessee DOC Assistant Commissioner of Facilities Tony Parker and Assistant Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Bill Gupton toured Wallens Ridge State Prison escorted by Evidence Based Program Manager Todd Farris, and Red Onion State Prison escorted by Warden Randall Mathena in Virginia. Both prisons are high security prisons.



Pictured left to right: Back row - Todd Farris, Bill Gupton, Timothy C. Ward, Rick Jacobs, Tony Parker. Front row - Betty Bailey-Dean, Sherri Bloodworth, Nancy Smith, and Donna Tebought.

### CHALLENGE (from pg 1)

"Our team has put in some long hours to get ready for this," said Deshawn Jones of Lee-Arrendale State Prison CERT. "This is a chance for us to all get together and compete, but build camaraderie at the same time because at the end of the day, we all work together and we are all one team."

Winners in the individual and

team event for this year's competition were as follows:

**Team Leadership Award (Leadership Reaction Course):** GSP CANINE

**Team Marksmanship Award:** LEE ARRENDALE STATE PRISON

**Team Obstacle Course Award:** GEORGIA DIAGNOSTIC & CLASSIFICATION PRISON

### Team Rope Challenge:

PHILLIPS STATE PRISON

For the Commissioner's Challenge Championship, the runners-up are as follows:

**Third Place** and a one-time bonus of \$100 per member: GEORGIA STATE PRISON

**Second Place** and a one-time bonus of \$250 per member: MACON STATE PRISON

To recognize the dedication

of Correction Officer Jessica Bruns during the team rope challenge, Commissioner Owens presented her with a Commissioner's Coin.

To see video highlights of the Commissioner's Challenge visit our Facebook page, or the GA CORRECTIONS YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/GACorrections>

## Mothers & Children Reconnect at Lee Arrendale

Content Contributed Chaplain Kimmie McNeese

The Lee Arrendale State Prison (LASP) Children's Center celebrated "Family Reunification Under the Big Tent" on Oct. 5. This year marks the second annual event that allows mothers of newborn babies, adolescents, and teens to participate in a festive type environment full of food, games, joy, laughter, and tears.

The purpose of this event is to initiate bonding relationships between the mothers and their child(ren), and to strategically guide them in the pathway of being healthy families living successful lives. The Children's Center Program restores hope to mothers through incentives to strive for growth through academic performance, disciplined be-

havior, and compliance to the order of rules and regulation.

The LASP Children's Center Program works with postpartum mothers and mothers of children age four weeks to 16 to reunify them through a prison based parenting program. This program allows inmates who fit the criteria to participate in 11 monthly visits, and weekly groups to build parenting, and cognitive behavior skills. In the program, the women develop character, learn goal setting and make preparation for re-entry into society. These women practically apply their training through visitation, video visits, family tele-conferences, and written communications.

Special thanks to LASP Warden Kathy Seabolt, Acting Deputy Warden of Security Anthony Dewberry, Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment Shelia Bracewell, Clinical Chaplain Susan Bishop, Chief of Security Captain Charles Todd, and non-security staff.

Special thanks also to individual volunteers, churches, non-profits, and civic organizations, which support the continued growth and development of the Children's Center Program through their prayers, volunteerism, financial support, and other types of donations. These groups and individuals include but are not limited to: Decatur First United Methodist Church, Quinn Hudson, Foreverfamily and Bridges of Hope.



## Georgia Veterans focus of JDTR Conference

Content Contributed by Kenneth Mantle

The 2013 Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery (JDTR) *Unspoken Wounds: Breaking the Silence Conference*, a first of its kind comprehensive, educational, and networking event designed to create synergy among those who defend, advocate, and care for justice-involved Veterans was held in Savannah Oct. 21-22. Commissioner Brian Owens and GDC staff attended the event to help ensure that the best possible services are being provided to veterans in the Georgia corrections system.

The workshop was designed to lay a foundation for the information needed by key civilian community resources to provide the help needed by these veterans. It also provided information such as the issues faced by military personnel, veterans, and their families; their cultural backdrop; the visible and invisible wounds they suffer; and how therapists, clergy, and faith community leaders can respond.



Commissioner Brian Owens (center) with Phillips State Prison Mental Health Director Rhonda Billings (left) and Mental Health Counselor Tanesha Callahan at the JDTR Conference.

## Waycross State Office To The Rescue

Officers, Probationers Rally in Honor of Student with Cancer

Content Contributed by Karen Leviton

The Waycross Probation Office donated 90 pounds of pop can tabs to Waresboro Elementary School in Waycross, Ga. The tabs were being collected by Mrs. Lori Highsmith's third grade class in honor of Mattie Goble. Mattie, a first grade student at Waresboro Elementary School was diagnosed on February 17, 2013 with Diffused Intrinsic Pontine Glioma, an inoperable brain stem tumor. The tabs were collected in her honor and donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

"Seeing the delighted and excited faces of Mrs. Highsmith and her children was priceless as they received this gift in honor of their friend, Mattie," said Waycross Probation Office Secretary II Karen Leviton.

The "Pop Tab Collection" is a program of the Ronald McDonald House as a fundraising effort to help offset the costs to maintain their housing for fami-

lies of children undergoing treatment. The funds are generated from the recycling of aluminum pop or soup can tabs. The Waycross Probation Office heard of the fundraising efforts for Mattie, a member of their community and decided to help out.

After four months of pulling and saving tabs, they were able to present the 90-pound donation to Waresboro Elementary School on October 7.

It was a team effort as both the staff and the probationers participated in the collection of tabs. If a probationer had a disability that prohibited them from doing their ordered community service, they were given the opportunity to collect tabs in lieu of community service. One cup of tabs equalled five hours of community service.

Mattie is still fighting for her life. To learn more you can follow her Facebook page-Mattie Goble's Prayer Team at <https://www.facebook.com/MattieGoblesPrayerTeam>.



Chief Probation Officer Greg Taylor, Probation Officers Caleb Worley and Matthew Tillman, Karen Leviton and Rachelle Howling of the Waycross Probation Office and Tommy Rouse from Day Reporting Center were on hand for the presentation of 90 pounds of can tabs to Waresboro Elementary School.

# RIGHT ON TARGET

## Shooters make their mark during 4th Annual Derek Chance Memorial Pistol Competition

Story & Photos By Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

An unusually chilly fall morning heated up quickly as shooters took to the range to compete in the Fourth Annual Derek Chance Memorial Pistol Competition on Oct. 25. Thirty-eight shooters participated in the event, with the title of “Top Gun” going to Clinton Thornburg of the Valdosta Probation Office. The competition is co-sponsored by the Georgia Probation Association and Smyrna Police Distributors, and is held in honor of GDC Firearms Instructor Derek Chance who died tragically.



Shooters stand at the ready on the 25-yard line, waiting for the command to fire during the final relay of the Derek Chance Memorial Pistol competition.



Shooters take aim at their targets from the 3-yard line during the competition. The course of fire was a standard requalification course, but competing for the title of “Top Gun” added some additional pressure.

He was remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional, with both a talent and passion for teaching. “Derek really loved being a firearms instructor,” said Marsha McIntyre, Deputy Director of Probation Operations. “He loved the people he worked with and understood how important his job was.”

Shooters were put to the test as they fired the standard probation officer requalification course. Several shooters scored 298 on the course, resulting in a tie-breaker round for seven shooters. Commissioner Brian Owens was in attendance to present trophies to the winners from each flight.

# Around the Agency...



On Oct. 1, the Columbus Day Reporting Center and Probation Office partnered with the Columbus Parole Office by hosting a Job Fair for Probationers and Parolees at the Day Reporting Center. Five major employers were represented at the Fair to include Alatrade, West Staffing, and Knight Recycling. Over 190 people attended the event to include 112 probationers.



On Oct. 16, the Augusta State Medical Prison staff dressed out in pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which is an annual campaign to increase awareness of the disease. Breast Cancer survivors who work at the prison were honored by Warden Stan Shepard. Be sure to have your yearly exams and conduct self-examinations regularly. Early detection SAVES LIVES.

### MISSION

The Department of Corrections creates a safer Georgia by effectively managing offenders and providing opportunities for positive change.

### VISION

To be recognized as the best corrections organization in the nation.



**BRIAN OWENS**  
*Commissioner*

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