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Have a great story idea?

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# Battle of the Badges assists Red Cross with blood collection throughout the year

Content contributed by Susan Megahee



Warden Clay Tatum did his part by giving blood at Rogers State Prison.

Despite the frigid January temperatures, the Battle of the Badges American Red Cross Blood Drive campaign is heating up! Battle of the Badges is a statewide Facilities vs. Probation Operations blood drive campaign. The Department has partnered with the American Red Cross to help in the shortage of blood supply in the state of Georgia. Red Cross provides blood to more than 120 hospitals in Georgia, which require the collection of 1,200 pints of blood every day to meet their needs.

Since the patient and hospital base is so large in Georgia, Red Cross is not able to collect all the blood needed in our state. The Battle of the Badges campaign is an effort to give back and give blood to the state of Georgia.

The campaign runs through April 2014 with the winner of the campaign being announced in May at the Annual Awards ceremony. A Battle of the Badges trophy will be awarded to the facility or office with the most staff participation.

With three months left in the campaign, the depar-  
**(See BATTLE Pg. 3)**

# Employees honored at Fourth Quarterly Awards

Story and photos by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

In spite of the looming winter storm, employees packed the auditorium Jan. 28, to celebrate the achievements of their coworkers during the Fourth Quarterly Awards ceremony at State Offices South at Tift College. The impending bad weather did little to dampen the spirits of those being recognized for their dedication and hard work for the Department of Corrections.

The Correctional Officer of the Quarter was Lt. Justin Mock of Calhoun State Prison. The Probation Officer of the  
**(See AWARDS Pg. 2)**



Correctional Officer Lt. Justin Mock and Probation Officer Melinda Carter were named outstanding officers of the quarter during the 4th Quarterly awards ceremony held Jan. 28 at State Offices



## Calendar Events

**Thursday, February 6**  
Board of Corrections Meeting

BCOT Graduation

**Thursday, February 13**  
Sergeant's Academy Graduation

Board of Public Safety Meeting

**Friday February 14**  
Valentine's Day

**Saturday, February 15**  
Hubbard Alumni Fundraiser Dinner

**Monday, February 17**  
GDC Roll-up

Day in Central Office

**Tuesday, February 18**  
Toombs Judicial Circuit DRC-Lite Commencement Ceremony

**Friday-Sunday February 21-23**  
SSCA 2014 Mid-Winter Training Conference

**Wednesday- Friday February 26-28**  
GPA 2014 Mid-Winter Training Conference



**(AWARDS from Pg. 1)**

Quarter was Melinda Carter. Congratulations to all of the awardees on a job well done. The awardees were as follows:

**Corrections Division**

Customer Service Champion- Sgt. Shelay Smith

Unsung Hero - Joe Thompson, Luke Coleman, Tavis West and Clay Ketterman

**Operations, Planning and Training**

Customer Service Champion-

Anna Holland and Wendy Mazer

Unsung Hero - Lt. Flemister Wiley and Lt. Kenneth Howard

**Administration**

Customer Service Champion - Wanda Knowles

Unsung Hero - Walter Sloan, Shannon Reynolds and Scott Smith

**Executive Operations**

Customer Service Champion-

Patrick Wolfe

Unsung Hero - Melvin Lee Russell  
**Faithful Service Awards - 30 Years**

Warren Reid

**Faithful Service Awards - 25 Years**

Andrew Cobb  
James Moore

**Faithful Service Awards - 15 Years**

Theresa Lindsey  
Eva Manson  
Jacquelyn Stephend  
Celeste Johnson  
Cindy Smith  
Allen Hauck

**Faithful Service Awards - 10 Years**

Marcus Dame  
Tamika Harvey  
James Daniel  
Lamar Mixon



The POST Training unit recognized for their outstanding job performance. Congratulations to "Unsung Heroes" Joe Thompson, Luke Coleman, Tavis West and Clay Ketterman on a job well done.



# Military Job Fair a success for GDC

Story by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley  
Photos by Susan Megahee

The Georgia Department of Corrections and other state and local law enforcement agencies struck gold at the military job fair at Fort Benning, Jan. 20. Hundreds of service members attended the event, which helped connect veterans with state agencies eager to recruit people with the skills and abilities that those who have served possess. Eleven different agencies were on hand to take applications, and in some cases, hire people on the spot.

"I think it's great that you brought this to our soldiers so they can see what you have to offer," said Sgt. Maj. Nestour Rodriguez with the Headquarters Garrison at Ft. Benning. "Some-

times our soldiers have a hard time getting off post to go to job fairs, but because you brought

this right here to them they can see how many opportunities (See **JOB FAIR Pg. 3**)



Lt. Lavern Richardson, a recruiter from from Macon State Prison discusses the benefits of working for GDC with a soldier during the Military Job Fair at Fort Benning, Ga. Jan. 20.



An officer gives a thumbs up while giving blood during the Battle of the Badges at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison.

#### (JOB FAIR from Pg. 2)

there are to use their military training.”

During the job fair, the CERT Team conducted cell extraction demonstrations and K-9 Unit did both contraband detection and suspect takedown demonstrations.

A total of twelve applicants were hired on the spot with Georgia Department of Corrections, and several others were hired by other agencies.

The Department will be hosting another military job fair in February. Check the GDC Facebook page for further details.



CERT Team members file inside to begin the cell extraction demonstration during the Fort Benning Military Job Fair on Jan. 20.

#### (BATTLE from Pg. 1)

rtment has held more than 28 blood drives, collecting a total of 493 units of blood. We still have over 15 facilities and offices that have not yet scheduled their blood drives, so we expect to see a large increase in this number before the end of the campaign.

Who will earn bragging rights this year? The leaders of the campaign in total units collected (not dependent on staff size) are as follows; Georgia State Prison & Rogers State Prison with 37 units, Dodge SP with 33 units, Albany Probation Office with 33 units and Waycross PO with 29 units.

Sign-up sheets are posted in your facility/office, so be sure to sign-up today. If you missed the opportunity to donate blood at your facility or office, keep checking the GDC Facebook page for the special April initiative; a last chance opportunity to donate for the campaign.

## Turner Residential Substance Abuse Treatment GED grads top state passing rate by 12 percent

**T**urner RSAT held its first GED graduation and Family Day Celebration on Thursday January 16, 2014. Eight detainees successfully passed the GED test in December of 2013.

The celebration was well attended by family members, Turner and Spectrum staff as well as staff from Bainbridge PSATC, Inmate Affairs, Moultrie Technical College and Turner RSAT volunteers. Superintendent Meriweather acknowledged Doug Hall from Moultrie Technical College for volunteering his time to teach the GED classes when Turner did not have a GED instructor and Dr. Billy Riffle, current GED Instructor, for the successful 89% GED passing rate which puts Turner above the state average passing rate of 77%.

Leslie Lamb, Chief Parole Officer, District 14, Albany, Ga. sent a letter of recognition to the graduating students congratulating them on their achievement. She quoted George Washington Carver as saying “Education is the key

to unlock the golden door of freedom” and Nelson Mandela who said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

The speaker for the occasion was Dr. Grady Thompson of Albany, Ga. Dr. Thompson delivered an amazing and inspiring message of his life story. Dr. Thompson’s story is a good example that it is possible to have a successful

life after battling drug and alcohol addiction. He shared his story of his downward spiral with addiction and his continued struggle to stay sober and drug free. He said it was only by the “Grace of God”,

the support of his family and self-help groups such as AA/NA that he has been drug free since 2004. He encouraged those in attendance to be strong, focus on the positive, believe in a higher power and to face all challenges utilizing support and self-alliance. “This disease is baffling and powerful,” said Thompson. “This is a journey, not a destination.”



# Around the Agency...

## Montgomery State Prison achieves compliance audit excellence

Sgt. Miller won an individual award for her work in Count Procedures and in the Visitation Assessment. During the visitation assessment, she was very professional to all visitors. The process was very orderly and conducted according to the all policies and procedures. She was also involved in the count audit. There were no findings in the count process.



The Care and Treatment staff won the group award. Their SCRIBE documentation was current and done in the D.A.P. format. All subjects audit in Care and Treatment was in excellent condition meeting all policy requirements with no critical findings. Congratulations to the Care and Treatment Team.



Chief Counselor Whitney Hendrix won an individual award for her work in the Care and Treatment audits. She led her staff to a very high score with no critical findings. Through her leadership, she achieved high scores despite working with a shortage of staff. She is an inspiration to all staff at Montgomery SP. Congratulations Ms. Hendrix.



The GDC Academic Education 2014 Winter Conference was held at the Macon City Marriott in Macon, Ga., with approximately 120 GDC Teachers from 37 state facilities and centers in attendance. Mr. Keith L. Brown congratulated the teachers for their efforts in raising the GDC GED passing rate to 77% and encouraged them to continue advocating and encouraging their students. There were several concurrent sessions regarding 2014 GED and other education topics. On Jan. 17, Arnold Smith, Director of OPTD gave opening remarks encouraging teachers to work through the challenges of GED 2014 and he acknowledged the sacrifices teachers make every day to ensure offender success.



The 1st Commencement for graduates of the DRC LITE program in the Pataula Judicial Circuit, Donalsonville Probation Office, was held on Jan. 9, at the New Hope Worship Assembly in Donalsonville, Ga. Six graduates from Groups 1 and 2 were cheered on by 90 people in attendance at the ceremony. The highlight of the program was a riveting speech given by participant Darrick Calloway. Field Operations Manager Scott Mullis had words of encouragement for the graduates on behalf of probation command staff. Chief Judge Joe Bishop also addressed the graduates, advising them to take what they've learned and use it to make their lives better. Judge Ronnie Joe Lane was the keynote speaker and gave very positive comments regarding the program and encouraged the graduates to successfully complete their sentences.

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### 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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