



Impact Georgia

June 2014 Newsletter

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Have a great story Idea?

Send to

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Career Fair jumpstarts new GDC careers for military personnel at Robins Air Force Base

Photo by Lisa Rodriguez Presley
Story By Stephanie Colwell

Another successful military job fair was hosted by the Georgia Department of Corrections on May 30, at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, GA. More than 250 people attended the event which connected veterans with state agencies looking to recruit those with the specialized skills and knowledge of members of the armed forces. GDC recruiters were on hand to take applications, and out of the 49 people that applied, 25 were hired on the spot.

In addition to building career connections, attendees also got a peek at what the GDC has to offer them as the TACT squads conducted a demonstration in riot control, and the Macon State Prison TACT squad conducted a demonstration of cell extraction. The K-9 unit conducted both contraband detection and suspect apprehension demonstrations.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Reed knows first hand how job fairs like this are assisting veterans in finding new careers. He attended the GDC military career fair at Fort Benning Ga. in March and after being hired on the spot, completed the Basic Correctional Officer Training Course on May 28. He began working at Dooly State Prison as a correctional officer on June 3.



GDC recruiters talk about career opportunities with an applicant during the Military Career Fair at Robins Air Force Base, on May 30.

"In this economy a lot of veterans are struggling to find jobs," said Reed. "Everything was organized to help veterans walk out of the event with a job offer."

More career fairs are coming up at Fort Gordon on June 26, Moody Air Force Base July 10, and Fort Stewart on July 25.

Social media can open gateway to becoming a crime victim

Story By Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

Everyday there seems to be a new social media site that people begin flocking to. Snapchat, Instagram and

Facebook are some of the most popular, but when you post that cute picture of your new dog, or of your kids at the local park, do you really know

how much information you are posting? Many people don't and that has become a concern according to Ciara Davila, an investigator with Georgia Department of Correc-

tions' Office of Investigations and Compliance (OIC).

"It is astounding the amount of information that people are unknowingly putting out there," said Davila. "What's worse is that many people have no idea how much information can be gathered from a simple photo taken with your smartphone."

An example of the information available comes from a process known as Geotagging. Geotagging adds (See SOCIAL MEDIA pg. 3)





Calendar Events

Thursday, June 5
Board of Corrections Meeting

Friday, June 6
GPA Golf Tournament

Monday, June 15
GDC Sergeant's Academy Begins

Tuesday, June 16
GDC Roll-up
"Day in Central Office"

Friday, June 13
Interagency Pistol Competition

Tuesday, June 24
GDC Annual Awards Ceremony

Augusta DRC Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, June 26
Sergeant's Academy Graduation

BCOT Graduation

Military Career Fair at Fort Gordon Augusta, GA

Second Annual Kid's Fishing tournament brings junior anglers and parents to State Offices South at Tift College

Story and Photo by Susan Megahee

On Saturday, May 10, the staff of Georgia Department of Corrections hosted their 2nd Annual Kid's Fishing Event at the central office in Forsyth, Ga. Children ages 15 and under from the community were invited to attend this free event, in hopes they would have a fun-filled morning of filling their buckets with freshly caught catfish.

More than 100 children and their families attended the event that was held at Lake Camaru on campus. Lining the edge of the lake, each tried their luck at catching the biggest fish. In preparation for this community event, the Department of Natural resources stocked the pond with new catfish last fall. The fish grew substantially over the months and have been well fed, making the event even more challenging. Prizes were awarded in age groups for the first caught fish and the weight of their stringer. Many children also received door prizes to include additional tackle.

The staff at State Offices South worked hard to put this event together and expressed thanks to our community for joining us at this annual event. Many thanks go out to our staff for organizing the event and supplying the snacks and prizes.



A young fisherman proudly displays his catch from the 2nd Annual Kid's Fishing Event at State Offices South at Tift College May 10.

Shooters zero in during Commissioner's Pistol Competition

Story and Photos by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

It was a beautiful day for shooting as 164 individual participants, 43 team participants and 63 firearms instructors competed for the title of top shooter in the 2014 Commissioner's Pistol Competition held at the GDC Firearms Complex in Jackson, Ga. on May 9. Competition was fierce, and the minimum score to make it into the Top 10 was 298 out of 300 possible! The scores serve as a testament to the talent and hard work of all of those competing. Winners of this year's competition were:

INDIVIDUAL SHOOTER

1st Place - Michael Moore from Hays State Prison

2nd Place - Tyler Denham from Americus Probation Office

3rd Place - Lee Clark from Emanuel Women's Facility

TEAM SHOOTERS

1st Place - Rick Jacobs, Carl Humphries and Mark Moll from SOSTC

2nd Place - Freddie Gaines, Joshua Ellis and Robert Rattliff from Central State Prison

3rd Place - Dexter Taylor, Eric Harvey and Cory Osborne from

Georgia State Prison

FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR

1st Place - David Colon - Basic Correctional Officer Training

2nd Place - Clay Weaver - Leadership Development Unit

3rd Place - Joe Thompson - Probation Field Training Manager



Shooters in the team competition fire under the watchful eye of firearms instructors during the 2014 Commissioner's Pistol Competition. The 164 shooters were all vying for the top shot title.





(SOCIAL MEDIA from pg. 1)

geographical information to various media in the form of metadata. The data usually consists of coordinates like latitude and longitude, but may even include bearing, altitude, distance and place names. Geotagging is most commonly used for photographs and can help people get a lot of specific information about where the picture was taken or the exact location of a friend who logged on to a service.

Most people don't realize that the action of automatic geotagging takes place on their smart phones, either because it is enabled by default, not exposed to the user as an option, or was asked and then forgotten. As a result, individuals often share too much information about their location, right down to the exact latitude and longitude when snapping photos with their smartphone and posting them online.

Providing your location or other logistical information to the world can make you, your family or your possessions a target of opportunity – placing your family's personal security and safety at risk.

Most people know to list their cell phone instead of their home phone number on classified advertisements in the paper because landlines can be easily tracked to the service address. Most people know to blur the license plate on that classic hotrod that's for sale before putting pictures in the paper because the plates can be looked up and used to find the car, but there are behaviors in this high-tech age that were initially thought to be harmless, but turn out to be quite risky.

Examples are the acquaintance who tweets every time he goes to the store for 20 minutes or the guy at the airport who is telling all of his Facebook friends (and probably the world) he and his family are leaving

town for a two week vacation in the Caribbean. These behaviors can increase your risk of becoming a victim of burglary, robbery, or worse. Posting about your vacation lets the criminal who may be cruising your neighborhood know that he'll have plenty of time to take whatever he wants out of your house.

Caution should be used when deciding who to add to your friend's list or who you allow to follow you on Instagram or other photo sharing sites. When you accept a friend request from someone you don't know, you grant them access to a wealth of personal information. If the person is a hacker or a malicious computer program, your account security is compromised. Identity theft is a serious concern; according to Tech News World, the personal information on your profile "can provide the crucial information identity thieves need to misrepresent themselves as you." The information on your timeline can help a hacker or computer program guess the passwords or answers to security questions, both on Facebook and other secure websites.

Many fake friend requests are run by computer programs that are designed to search for people that fit a certain profile. When a person accepts the request, the program is then set to make posts, tag people in photos and make additional friend requests. In doing so, it builds an aura of legitimacy. At that point, the program can post links that lead to suspicious websites and fake giveaways -- and because it has established "credibility" users are more likely to click on potentially damaging links. If one of your friends clicks on a link that looks safe they can experience a range of negative effects: viruses, malware or even automatic downloads that enable remote computer access.

There are a few common sense tips for

dealing with the multitude of threats that come with social media usage. Some are site specific, but all are good to keep in mind.

- **Keep private information, private.** When filling out your profile, you can leave fields blank. The only pieces of information needed to create an account are your name, email address, and gender. There's no need to post phone numbers or addresses.
- **Disable Geotagging on your smartphone.** If you can't figure it out on your own, simply Google how to do it. There are a number of different sites that walk you through the process step-by-step. You can also call your cellular provider's technical support service for help.
- **Stick with friends.** Limit your privacy settings to "Friends." That will restrict who sees your information, including pictures and videos. You also should indicate that only friends can look you up and message you.
- **Get a handle on your info.** If you don't restrict who can share your information, your personal data could end up in marketers' hands. You should be on the lookout for personal information requests -- like birthday or music playlist -- from third parties. Scan the ads that are served up to you on Facebook and notice how many relate to information in your profile.
- **Pause before posting.** The Internet is a megaphone to the world. Consider how what you do today will impact your reputation, your employment and friendships -- today, tomorrow, and 10 years from now. You should ask friends before tagging them in photos that could be embarrassing and don't say things you wouldn't say to their faces.

Lagrange Transitional Center renamed in honor of Charles D. Hudson Sr.

Photo by Lisa Rodriguez-Presley

Officials gathered May 1, to honor the late Charles D. Hudson Sr., former Board of Corrections Chairman in a ceremony that renamed the Lagrange Transitional Center to the Charles D. Hudson Transitional Center. Reflecting on the memory of Mr. Hudson, local and state officials recounted his commitment to offender rehabilitation and his dedication to the community through his service on the Board of Corrections, as well as many other community initiatives. The event was attended by State Representatives Randy Nix and Carl Von Epps, Lagrange Mayor Jim Thornton, members of the Board of Corrections, Former GDC Commissioner Chief Jim Wetherington, Asst. Commissioners Timothy C. Ward and Greg Dozier, Mr. Hudson's family (pictured right) and friends, as well as Department of Corrections senior leadership and staff.





Around the Agency...



Staff from Central State Prison participated in Relay for Life, a community based fundraising program for the American Cancer Society. The mission of Relay For Life is to raise funds to improve cancer survival, decrease the incidence of cancer, and improve the quality of life for cancer patients and their caretakers.



Staff from Whitworth Women's Facility celebrated employee appreciation week with a cookout and games. Chief of Security, Captain David Little was appointed chef for the event, which celebrated the hard work and dedication of all of the Whitworth staff.



The Reidsville BMT Class of 2014 held it's graduation ceremony on May 8. Warden Robert Toole delivered the keynote address. Lieutenant Roy M. Odum spoke on behalf of the class and was also awarded the class Leadership Award. Probation Officer Henry Moore was recognized for highest academic class average (100).



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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.



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