

TRANSITION UPDATE

HCDC

March, 2007

Volume 2, Issue 3

WE HAVE WALLS!!

Those of you who have driven past the building site have seen that we have walls up—and actually we have two types of walls up. In the inmate housing area we have the large slabs and in the administrative area we have grey cinder blocks.

In the newsletter this month we have a guest article about the trip to Habersham Metal Products that will shortly be manufacturing the metal walls for the cells. Attached to the back of the newsletter is a schematic for the cells.

It is just amazing how quickly those walls can go up. Less than a year from now we will be working in the new

Department of Corrections and wondering how we handled working in the old facility. We realize that there will be a period of adjustment for us and the inmates, but everyone that we have talked to that has worked in a linear indirect facility and a direct supervision facility much prefers working in a direct supervision facility.

The pictures to the right were taken March 2, 2007. They are from top to bottom inside Housing Unit A, facing west a picture of the housing area and a picture of the front administrative area.



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OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Well it is back this month—after a one month recess. I would also like to remind you that we still accept nominations for Officer of the Month.

The Officer of the Month for March has been with the De-

partment for 5 years. During that time this Officer has demonstrated his eagerness to learn and assume responsibilities and is serving as an Officer in Charge. This Officer's professionalism has been noticed by his fellow Officers, who have

nominated him for Officer of the month. The Officer of the Month for March is Al Rakosky. Good Job Al.



STRESS RECOGNITION

Imagine you are a cavewoman walking along picking and eating berries and suddenly you are nose to nose with a saber tooth tiger! In a flash you move from looking for lunch to being looked at as lunch. At this point your autonomic system takes over and your hypothalamus sends a message to your adrenal glands and within seconds, you can run faster, hit harder, see better, hear more acutely, think faster and jump higher than you could seconds earlier.

Flash forward to the present. You walk into a cell block and announce medication.

The inmate that grabs his cup and tries to go out is the one that can't come out of his cell because of his behavior—you are the one standing in the door so you are the one that gets yelled at and sometimes threatened. Perhaps you are down in Booking when you hear "Officer needs assistance", but by the time you get up the elevator and down the hall everything is over.

Every time your body triggers the fight or flight response for situations that are not life threatening you experience a false alarm. Too many false alarms can lead to

disorders like heart disease, high blood pressure, immune system disorders, migraine headaches and/or insomnia.

Stress can result from one major life-threatening incident, but cumulative stress is just as dangerous and results from the daily wear and tear of small incidents.

The first step in dealing with stress is the recognition that we are all subject to stress and we can lessen the effects before they result in burnout. Next month we will cover methods for dealing with stress.

IN TRANSITION

Congratulations to our newest Corporal Bill Young. Cpl Young assumed his new responsibilities on February 14th.

On March 5th, Sgt. Wegner and Cpl. Fosket will begin working with three new Corrections Officers. The new Officers are Brenda Branstiter, Dawna Montgomery and Justin Saner. When you see the new Officers walking by, say hello and welcome.

NEW VAN

If you turn to page 4 you will see more photos of the new van and Vancell. We will no longer have to wonder, on a transport, if the car will make it back to the jail.

The van is a 2007 E350 Ford Van. The inside of the van is manufactured by Bob Barker and shipped here. The Vancell was installed by Paul Wagner and Randy Grotzky in just three days. Depending on

the size of the inmates, we should be able to transport between seven and nine inmates at a time in the van and the inmates can be separated into three different areas.

The back holding area has a camera so an Officer in the front seat can observe any activity on the monitor.



HABERSHAM METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY TOUR

On February 26, 2007 at 0700 hours, Director Fred Ruiz, Holly Plejdrup, Paul Wagner, Stephanie Glover and Alan Rakosky, along with Chief Industries Sales Manager Bandon Otto departed from the Grand Island Airport on Chief's private jet to Cornelia, Georgia. With a tail wind that helped us reach 600 miles per hour, we landed at around 0900. Todd Brady, from Habersham Metal Products Company, was there to greet us and transported us to the Habersham Metal Products Company where we were met by James Stapleton, Jr. President of the company. Mr. Stapleton, with his assistants Todd and Phillip, gave us a tour of the warehouse.

The warehouse was divided into two areas—the door assembly area and the frame assembly area. Mr. Stapleton had a pre-assembled cell unit for us to inspect. The cell measured 7' x 14' with an 8' ceiling. The pipe chase to the cell will have an exterior door, allowing maintenance to work on it without entering the cell. All plumbing will be equipped with electric shut offs.

Bandon Otto stated that the 121 cells for our new facility will consist of 899 2" thick hollow panels. These panels will be filled with mortar once in place. It will take 23 man hours to assemble each cell from walls and doors to plumbing and fixtures...YOU

DO THE MATH!!

After a quick lunch, it was back to the airport. Before take off, Paul was quick to point out the cemetery at the end of the runway. THANKS A LOT PAUL. The return flight was now going against the gulf stream, so after a short stop at Jefferson, Missouri, to refuel, we continued on to Grand Island resulting in a four hour return flight.

It was unanimous that the trip was worth seeing all the employees working so hard on our future jail to actually see a pre-assembled cell was very motivating. Director Ruiz compared our current jail to an old car that an owner constantly keeps repairing. After all that money, you still have an old car.

Soon Hall County will have a new state-of-the-art corrections facility that will meet all standards, ensuring the safety of the community and the Corrections Officer working in it. If anyone has any questions about our tour, please speak to anyone of us for more information.



DIRECT SUPERVISION OFFICER SKILLS

It has been several months since we began to identify those skills needed for an Officer working in a Housing Unit. The skills we have covered are Leadership and Decision Making. This month we will cover Problem Solving.

The steps to problem solving are similar to the steps to decision making. The first, and most important, step is identifying the

problem to be addressed and why it is a problem. Based on the problem, the next step is to set goals—be realistic about what is an achievable goal.

The third step is to figure out an action plan. An action plan is a step by step plan to meet your goal.

The fourth step would be to begin your action plan and watch closely how it is

working. You may want to enlist the assistance of all involved to make it a success.

The final step is to collect data. From the data you may want to change the action plan, modify the goals or abandon the project and move on.

HCDC

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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!!!!!



PHOTOS OF THE NEW VAN AND THE VANCELL

