



# correctional **Newsfront**

## Activating an Area Command

By Susan McNaughton  
Press Secretary

During the early morning hours of Aug. 28, at the direction of Secretary Wetzel, several Central Office employees were deployed to the headquarters' third-floor conference room to establish Area Command in order to monitor events during Hurricane Irene.

According to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency's "Field Operations Guide" of 2009:

*"Area Command is an expansion of the incident command function primarily designed to manage a complex or large incident/event or an area that has multiple incident management organizations assigned. An Area Command may be established at any time that incidents are close enough that oversight is required among incident management organizations to ensure conflicts do not arise.*

*"The function of the Area Command is to develop broad objectives for the impacted area and coordinate the development of individual incident objectives and strategies. Additionally, the Area Command will set priorities for the use of critical resources allocated to the incidents assigned.*

*"The organization is normally small with personnel assigned to Command, Planning and Logistics functions. Depending on the complexity of the interface between the incidents, specialists in other areas such as aviation, hazardous materials, the environment and finance also may be assigned to Area Command."*

### In This Issue...

Agencies Team Up to Help Offenders Succeed.....	3
LTO Programming Piloted.....	4
DOC Reviews TC Program Length.....	5
What is Accreditation?.....	6
Inmates making local impact.....	8
Facility News.....	10

Leading the Area Command for the DOC during the hurricane was Secretary John Wetzel. He was assisted by Deputy Secretary for Administration Tim Ringle, Major Tammy Ferguson, Major Tess Pinard, Capt. Scott Bowman, Attorney Theron Perez, Clerk Typist Jill Fulcomer and Press Secretary Sue McNaughton.

Prior to their arrival at the Area Command, Capt. Bowman set up the room – the Weather Channel was on TV, the various phone lines were connected and tested. Jill Fulcomer served as the recorder and e-mailed messages to the field that the Area Command had been activated at 0100 hours.

(Continued on Page 7)

Secretary Wetzel Talks About...

## This issue of "Correctional Newsfront"

This issue of "Correctional Newsfront" is packed with information about areas that are of great importance to the DOC:

- Monitoring our operations during a weather emergency;
- Helping offenders succeed upon release from prison;
- Providing programs to inmates, even those serving life sentences;
- Reviewing the efficacy of our programs to ensure the outcome is what we expect;
- Understanding the importance of accreditation;
- Showing how our inmate community work programs assist local communities.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and educational and that it helps to explain what it is we do and how we are able to assist others.



### Newsfront

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# State Agencies Team Up to Help Offenders Rejoin Society, Succeed

## Training Program Will Allow the Sharing of Re-entry Resources

Government officials and community service agency representatives have begun a training effort aimed at helping offenders successfully return to their communities after their release.

"When there is an issue that spans several agencies, invested agencies should work together to resolve the problem," Corrections Secretary John Wetzel said. "This collaborative effort is what citizens should expect from their government – a willingness to work with all parties to resolve a situation. This is a perfect example of the new culture in Harrisburg under Gov. Tom Corbett."

The effort, which focuses primarily on helping former offenders find employment, will result in lower recidivism, higher rates of employment, savings to taxpayers and a reduction in the costs of incarceration, organizers said.

"Cabinet secretaries and the governor are working as one to ensure our communities are safe," said Labor & Industry Secretary Julia Hearthway. "One element of that effort is helping those who have served their time find employment so they can be productive members of society."

Held at the Department of Corrections' Elizabethtown Training Academy, more than 30 participants will undergo 180-hours of training, offered once a week for three months. The first session was held in August. After completing the program, the participants will be able to better connect offenders with services in their communities and will work to train others in the area of offender re-entry.

Participants include individuals from the DOC, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Department of Labor & Industry's PA CareerLink® network and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Penn State University, county prison officials and community service organizations.

The Offender Workforce Development Specialist training is a national initiative that promotes skill development and collaboration to improve employment outcomes, including job retention, for those re-entering the community from jails and prisons. The training in Pennsylvania was designed by the National Institute of Corrections and is funded by a \$25,000 grant, of which the DOC is the primary recipient.

"This project provides an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new ones to address employment risk factors associated with recidivism," Board of Probation and Parole acting Chair Lloyd White said.

"With 90 percent of state prison inmates returning home one day, it is in our best interest to help offenders succeed," Wetzel said. "This initiative helps us to turn people who once were tax burdens into taxpayers."

# DOC Pilots Programming for Long Term Offenders

By Sandra Wolfgang, Licensed Psychologist Manager  
Bureau of Treatment Services

With the emphasis in recent years on interventions designed to reduce recidivism, much of the department's focus has been on offenders who are approaching community re-entry and on providing them with treatment programs that effectively target "criminogenic needs" (i.e., those factors that are linked directly to their criminal behavior).

Unfortunately, given this focus, along with limited human resources and ongoing budget constraints, offenders serving life or otherwise lengthy sentences have received increasingly less attention.

Risk reduction and public safety continue to be the department's priority; however, recognizing the importance, both from security and humanistic perspectives, of providing meaningful intervention for the long-term offender population, the department began piloting the Long Term Offender (LTO) Program this past July. Pilot sites include State Correctional Institutions (SCIs) at Albion, Cambridge Springs, Coal Township, Graterford, Laurel Highlands and Muncy.

The target population for LTO participation are offenders serving life sentences as well as those with minimum expiration dates of 10 years or more, who are in their first two to four years of their sentence. Primary goals of the program are to address adjustment issues and to introduce ways to make the best of living in prison. The program also is designed to serve as a support group for these individuals and to teach them how to cope with the stressors inherent in protracted incarceration.

The LTO program consists of 32 sessions. Program participants meet weekly over a period of approximately eight months. Programmatic material from standardized cognitive-behavioral treatment programs conducted by the department is included in the LTO Program. It also incorporates "guest speakers" who are department employees tasked with providing information about their function and availability within the institutional setting and serving as experts in their field. Among others, speakers will include psychologists, nurses and chaplains.

Unlike most other programs implemented within the department, the LTO program requires use of inmate peer assistants. Peer assistants serve to support the group facilitator (i.e. treatment specialist) in the delivery of the program content. Peer assistants also provide insight during discussions and function as role models for program participants.

The initial run of the LTO Program will wrap-up in March 2012. Thereafter, the pilot will be evaluated with emphasis on consumer satisfaction as well as input from the involved treatment specialists. Program revision may follow.

# DOC Looks at Outcomes Associated with Differential-Duration Therapeutic Communities

By Sandra Wolfgang, Licensed Psychologist Manager  
Bureau of Treatment Services

Some time ago the department assigned offenders to therapeutic communities (TCs) of varying durations (three months, six months and nine months) in anticipation of a partnership with Temple University on a project that involved an analysis of recidivism rates among offender participants. The study intended to compare recidivism rates across the three groups to determine if they differed significantly as a function of TC duration.

In May 2010, Bret Bucklen, now director of the DOC's Bureau of Planning, Research and Statistics, conducted an internal analysis of the re-incarceration rates of the program participants. Interestingly, results showed a significant increase in recidivism for those who participated in the nine-month TC compared to the six-month TC; however, results were inconclusive with respect to the comparison between those who participated in the three-month TC versus the six-month TC. Although the recidivism rates were higher for the 3-month TC participants compared to the 6-month TC participants, the difference was relatively small and potentially attributable to chance alone.

Based on the department's findings, the possibility of shortening the duration of the SCI-based general population and Hispanic TCs from six to four months has come under consideration. However, in an effort to ensure that the findings of the internal analysis are reliable enough to support a policy change, Planning, Research and Statistics staff has recommended an initial pilot test of the change in procedures. State Correctional Institutions at Chester, Dallas, Fayette and Houtzdale have been chosen as sites to pilot the change because all have been operating two general population TCs.

The pilot will commence in September 2011 and will involve transitioning one TC at each site from a six- to a four-month TC. Approximately 400 program participants will then be followed over a period of three years, and recidivism rates will be compared and analyzed. The deputy secretary's office, the Bureau of Treatment Services and Planning, Research and Statistics staff will work in close collaboration with the pilot sites on the implementation of the pilot program and on the collection, analysis and presentation of the data. If the data supports the change, this will allow the department to treat offenders more efficiently, utilize treatment resources more effectively and maintain the current TC curriculum, with minor modifications, without jeopardizing the current level of TC treatment effectiveness.

# What is *ACCREDITATION*, What Does It Mean to Us?

By Jeff Hoovler and Rene King, SCI Mercer

According to the association's website, "The American Correctional Association is the oldest and largest international correctional association in the world." Founded in 1870, it was originally known as the National Prison Association. The first meeting was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the first president of the organization was the then future United States President Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1954, in Philadelphia, the organization's name was changed to its current American Correctional Association name to "reflect the expanding philosophy of corrections and its increasingly important role within the community and society as a whole."

The association currently has more than 20,000 members and has the following mission statement:

*"The American Correctional Association provides a professional organization for all individuals and groups, both public and private, that share a common goal of improving the justice system."*

The organization works closely with lawmakers, officials, law enforcement and advocacy organizations to meet its eight established goals of membership, diversity, professional development, standards and accreditation, research and education, public perception of corrections, international relations and ethics.

As it directly relates to departments of corrections, the ACA is the national accrediting agency. Using established standards, it audits Pennsylvania state prisons to ensure they are operating in line with nationally-accepted standards.

Accreditation is important to the facility because it validates what we do on a daily basis, which is operate a clean, safe and secure institution.

Accreditation also plays a significant role for the department in dealing with litigation. The Commonwealth's defense in many cases of inmate litigation is to show a jury that not only has an institution's physical plant been inspected, but policy and procedures have been reviewed by an outside inspection team that ensures that the standards of humane incarceration are being met.

A three-person audit team representing ACA will conduct an audit and inspection of every facility based upon a schedule coordinated by the Office of Standards and Records. In preparation for each audit, facilities undergo a mock audit, where staff inspects the entire physical plant focusing on cleanliness, safety and security. They will also review the 62 mandatory policy and procedure standards and the 468 non-mandatory standards. For the facility to be re-accredited, it must meet all mandatory standards and at a minimum of 90 percent of the non-mandatory standards and prove through the inspection that the quality of life that the inmates have is acceptable. Not only does the American Correctional Association provide us with standards for job performance, the organization also provides educational programs and other opportunities. For more information, visit their website at [www.aca.org](http://www.aca.org).

(Continued from Page 1)

Capt. Bowman provided an overview of the situation, specifically that our role was to monitor situations and to provide services, such as transportation and sheltering assets, to those who may request assistance through PEMA's Emergency Operation Center. Also discussed were the status of facilities believed to be directly impacted by the hurricane – SCIs Chester and Graterford and the Philadelphia area community corrections centers and contract facilities.



**DOC officials manning the Area Command observe a weather briefing.**

Secretary Wetzel thanked everyone for their work and reminded everyone of his goal to remain proactive and to support the facilities in the commonwealth. His main concerns were for community corrections and SCIs Chester and Graterford. At the time of activation of the Area Command, there were no problems or issues at these facilities.

The secretary also indicated that, after the hurricane passed, he expected that the department would receive requests from communities for assistance from the DOC's Community Work Program inmates.

The CWP, established in 1995, is a program where each facility uses crews of closely-supervised, low-security inmates to perform a variety of jobs for government and non-profit entities in Pennsylvania. Following Hurricane Ivan in 2004, CWP crews were dispatched to clean up debris. During normal operations, CWP crews work to paint government buildings, erect playground equipment and work in state parks.

For eight hours, these individuals in the Area Command remained ready to respond should one of our institutions need direction handling a situation or should another agency need supplies provided to them. In the end, the hurricane, once making landfall, seemed to pick up speed and moved quickly through the area. Initial reports showed flooding of the main roadway into SCI Graterford, but everywhere else the DOC's facilities were only minimally affected.

(Continued on Page 8)

# Inmates making local impact

DAN DiPAOLO

Daily American Sunday Editor

*Reprinted with Permission of Daily American Editor Brian Whipkey*

A local program to bring inmates into the community is paying dividends for area schools, nonprofits, municipalities and even the Flight 93 National Memorial.

The SCI-Somerset Community Work Program put more than 16,200 hours (equivalent to 405 40-hour work weeks) into approximately 100 projects throughout Somerset County, according to figures provided by the prison.

"We get a lot of positive feedback," said Mike Moslak, a program labor foreman. "And I think it gives some of these guys a sense of pride that they can make a difference and do a good job."

Organizers choose only non-violent offenders close to their release date for a spot in one

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued from Page 7)



At 5 a.m., officials observed a PEMA weather update via phone conference. Officials from all over the state listened to meteorologists as they explained current and future conditions, rainfall amounts and potential for flooding in certain areas. As a result of the fact that the hurricane was moving rather quickly out of the area, Secretary Wetzel determined that there was no need to man the Area Command after 8 a.m.

At 8 a.m. everyone departed the Area Command, heading for home, but confident that the DOC's work in the area of emergency preparedness and communications during incidents was firmly established and functional.

The state's preparation for Hurricane Irene started long before the DOC activated its Area Command.

At 0800 on Saturday, Aug. 27 2011, the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated to Level II.

Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs) from DOC were ordered to mobilize at noon. DOC EPLOs were deployed in 12-hour operational periods until they were deactivated on Sunday, Aug. 28, at approximately 7 p.m.

The EPLOs work with representatives from all state agencies to mitigate *any* emergencies that occur across the Commonwealth, not just within the DOC.

Staff members activated:

- Lt. Cindy Read (MAH)
- Lt. Bill Nicklow (CEN)
- Lt. Steve Klinedinst (CAM)
- Lt. Chad Grassmyer (CAM)
- Lt. Walt Grunder (GRA)

(Continued from Page 8)



An inmate at SCI-Somerset works on a community project as part of the prison's service program (Dan DiPaolo)

of the three work groups as their projects often mean interaction with the public, said Heidi Sroka, the public information officer for SCI-Somerset.

While the program has been in place for a decade, the public still doesn't have a high awareness of both the diversity of the projects and the amount of work being done in the community, Moslak said.

"A lot of people don't know about it," he said.

The most common perception is of the orange-clad prisoners picking up garbage along the side of the road. While they spent 4,012 hours picking up 1,681 large bags of litter, that was only the second-largest use of the program's time last year.

Nearly 5,000 hours were spent at nonprofits including the Johnstown Christian School performing tasks such as painting, cleaning and landscaping.

"It's a huge benefit," school Administrator Kathy Keafer said. "This is work that if they didn't do it for us we would have to find room in our budget for," she said.

The inmates spent three weeks at the school and ended up going far beyond the initial plan of painting and cleaning some of the facility. "The most amazing thing, I think, for me was when they showed such personal initiative in taking on jobs that we hadn't asked them to do," she said.

(Continued on Page 16)

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

Vegetable Garden

Recently, 90 inmates housed on a lower-level security housing unit were given the opportunity to participate in a small-scale vegetable garden at SCI Cambridge Springs. Inmates must meet specific criteria, such as having a positive behavioral adjustment. The inmates grow the items, under staff supervision, and then consume the garden's fresh produce. Prison staff believes the project fosters continued good behavior and gives inmates an opportunity to learn a valuable skill during incarceration.

CAMP HILL

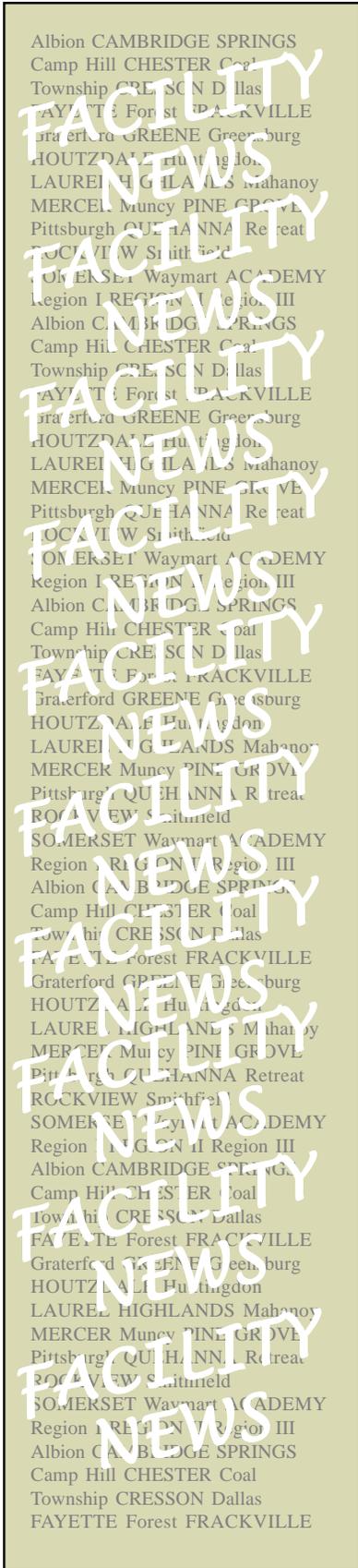
CWP Thanks!

The executive director and facilities manager of the Cumberland County Historical Society (Linda Witmer and Mark Davis, respectively) recently wrote a letter of thanks to DOC Secretary John Wetzel about the work completed by SCI Camp Hill's community work program inmates:

"Over the last several years, it has been our pleasure to have a work crew from the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill complete various projects at our facility. The quality of the work done, along with the capable and professional manner in which it was performed has been demonstrated in the finished projects. We have had an exceptional relationship with ... the staff [at the prison] that we trust will continue into the future.

"Recently, the crew completed an extensive renovation project at our facility which included interior demolition inside an old office building and construction of new ADA compliant offices, conference room, kitchen and restroom. Additionally, the trim, doors and woodwork on the outside of the building was painted.

"The Cumberland County Historical Society is a non-profit organization that greatly benefits from programs like the Department of Corrections' Community Work Detail. The work that has been done here significantly enhances our facility for the enjoyment of the citizens of Cumberland County and the Commonwealth."



## CHESTER

**Special Visitors**

In July, three high-ranking prison administrators from the Republic of South Korea visited SCI Chester as part of a U.S. tour arranged by the United Nations. While on their tour of SCI Chester, they took note of best practices and gathered information about programs, specifically those that enhance family ties for successful reentry after incarceration. The group also visited New York, Maryland and Washington, DC.



## CRESSON

**Teamwork in Action**

In April, a fire was discovered in the ceiling of the Auto Shop instructor's office after the area had been secured for the day. Fearing that the fire was electrical in nature, the power was turned off. Lt. Kearney then grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out all visible flames. Lt. Kearney and Corrections Officer 1 Yost continued to monitor the situation until assistance arrived. The prison's FERT was activated in the event additional fire fighting

would be needed prior to the arrival of an outside fire company. Many local fire crews responded, in addition to several ambulances. One of the fire trucks entered the prison and extinguished the remainder of the fire.



This situation shows the importance of fire safety training and highlights the cooperative efforts the prison has with local emergency responders.

"FERT members, maintenance department staff and 2-10 shift staff all came together in an orderly and professional manner," Institutional Safety Manager John Archey said. "Your assistance with handling this incident does not go unnoticed." Following the incident, Archey reminded employees about the FERT team and how employees can become part of the team.

### Used Book Sale

Earlier this year employees at SCI Cresson held a book sale that generated \$212 which was then donated to the Cresson Food Pantry. Prison staff can donate used books by placing them in the designated box located in the gatehouse.



### Blood Drive

In May employees from SCI Cresson and FCI Loretto joined forces to participate in a blood drive. Twelve productive units of blood were donated. Each unit of blood will manufacture three life-saving blood products. Approximately 36 lives will be saved through the generosity of staff.

### DALLAS

### Inmates Assist Local Communities

After recent storm damage in Luzerne County, community work detail inmates from the State Correctional Institution at Dallas have been helping to clear storm drains, remove damaged trees, broken pavement and other flood debris in Jackson and Plymouth Townships.

"The community work detail has assisted our local municipalities in various emergencies and worthwhile projects, and we are pleased to be able to assist our neighbors in their clean-up efforts," Superintendent Jerome Walsh said. "The inmates will continue working with these communities until the clean-up is complete."

SCI Dallas' community work program has provided assistance to local communities for the past 15 years.



Inmates assigned to the detail are minimum-security offenders who have demonstrated a positive adjustment to their incarceration. They are under the direct supervision of correctional staff.

For further information or applications, non-profit groups or organizations interested in the services of a community work detail can contact Norm Demming, classification program manger at the prison at (570) 675-1101, Ext. 241.

## GREENE

### Another Blood Drive

In July, employees from SCI Greene participated in a quarterly blood drive for the American Red Cross. Twenty-two viable units of blood were collected.

## MERCER

### Big Brothers/Big Sisters

In March, Dr. Wilson Goode, former Mayor of Philadelphia, gave a presentation to inmates and staff at SCI Mercer regarding a federally funded program with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. Goode has been instrumental in implementing programs with multiple organizations to match mentors and role models with at risk children. The Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization assists inmate families with children between the ages of 4 and 17.

During his presentation, Dr. Goode provided information about the program and the importance of mentoring in the lives of children involved in the program. Statistics indicate that 1 in 33 children in the United States have a parent in prison. These children potentially experience trauma, financial hardship, social stigma, insecurity, instability and neglect.



Pictured: Brian Thompson, Dr. Wilson Goode, Dave Roberts, Martin Aibel

## TRAINING ACADEMY

### DeVry University

DeVry University and its Keller Graduate School of Management is the latest university to establish an agreement and partnership with the DOC. This agreement permits DeVry to evaluate DOC training curriculum, a process known as articulation, and assign college-level general education and elective credits for approved DOC courses, including the basic training program.

DeVry University provides information sessions to interested basic training students at the end of their duty day to educate them on their adult degree programs, criminal justice programs and campus and on-line courses.

Local DeVry representatives work with field training coordinators in an effort to arrange informational sessions at institutions and community corrections centers for interested staff. The DOC encourages employees who wish to attain a college education and/or further their previous college education to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Understanding EKGs

Have you ever had an EKG? Have you ever wondered what all of those squiggly lines mean?

Although many nurses have the technical skills to perform this diagnostic procedure, the DOC identified a training need our nurses should have to better understand what it means.

EKG (or ECG) is an abbreviation for the term electrocardiogram (the "K" is from the original Dutch spelling of the word "electrokardiogram"). This non-invasive test records the electrical activity of the heart. An EKG is a practical tool that may help determine if a patient has heart disease.

DOC nurses often perform this procedure, when indicated, for routine physical exams. However, they may also need to complete this test after normal clinic hours when an inmate has acute chest pain, heart palpitations or any other symptoms that may be related to heart disease. Therefore, it is imperative that nurses identify potentially life-threatening EKG results and take appropriate actions immediately.

The new Understanding EKGs class was piloted in June 2011, and class feedback was very enlightening. It identified an overwhelming majority of participants who believed their understanding of EKGs ranged from "nonexistent" to "moderate." Since properly performing and understanding this procedure can be vital to making after-hours decisions about emergency medical transports, the DOC plans to add additional classes to the training calendar to allow more nurses to take advantage of this educational opportunity. Based on excellent pilot program feedback from participants, instructors, a regional quality improvement nurse and the director of the Bureau of Health Care Services, the DOC will make minor revisions to improve the foundational information needed to maximize the effectiveness of this class.

## **K-9 Training Held**

In March, the DOC Drug Interdiction Unit held a joint training event with Lancaster County Prison's K-9 Officers. DIU Coordinator Captain Scott VanGorder coordinated this one-day training at the Training Academy in Mokychie Hall. Represented at the training were 10 K-9 officers from the department's DIU as well as five K-9 officers from the Lancaster County K-9 unit. The course offered drug and cell phone detection training to team members and also afforded the participating agencies the ability to share detection techniques and discuss interdiction strategies that are employed by each unit.

## **Working with Female Offenders**

It has been said "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus." Research shows this concept is true in corrections. Working with women offenders is viewed differently than working with their male counterparts. The DOC recognizes these differences and addresses this specialized population's nuances in training called Women Offenders in PA Corrections (WOPAC).

Recently, Curriculum Specialist Bill Bierly worked with a team of subject matter experts from SCI Muncy and the Quehanna Boot Camp to revisit, revise and update the 17-module/2-day course. The purpose of this training is to provide a meaningful orientation to staff working with female offenders within the DOC.

As part of the training, the participants look at a variety of topics including: concept of gender and how it impacts everyday life; gender differences in incarceration and offenses; the connection between trauma and crime; "pains of imprisonment"; health care and issues unique to women offenders.

The National Institute of Corrections' Information Center and the Washington Department of Corrections assisted with research and information for this specialized course. The Training Academy would like to thank the subject matter experts (SME) curriculum committee for its assistance in making this a significant training experience benefiting staff and offenders alike.

The SME curriculum committee consisted of Nancy Secules, SCI Muncy; and from the Quehanna Boot Camp: Laurie Hoffman, Jamie Rauch and Christa Modzel. Each committee served as an instructor during the pilot course hosted by Quehanna in May 2011.

## **Adopt-A-Highway**

April 26th marked the date for the annual Training Academy Adopt-a-Highway program. Employees policed two miles of Route 230 on either side of the front entrance to the Academy. This year, there were 26 participants consisting of staff members and training participants from basic training class #682 that collected 36 bags of trash and assorted items. This is the fifth year the Training Academy has participated in the Adopt-a-Highway program.

(Continued from Page 9)

"We are most appreciative and grateful for what they do. And I hope that someone lets them (the inmates) know that what they do is meaningful," she said.

Last year the work crews also spent 2,584 hours doing state correctional work, 1,534 hours working for other state agencies, 1,301 hours with local governments, 1,075 hours with state parks and 744 hours working on federal projects.

Jeff Reinbold, site manager of the Flight 93 National Memorial, said that crews from SCI-Somerset have been extremely helpful in getting the memorial and surrounding grounds ready for the 10th anniversary of the crash.

"They've helped us to do things that we wouldn't otherwise have been able to do otherwise under this timetable," Reinbold said. "We've relied on a number of community and volunteer organizations to help us get ready for the dedication. We've been very fortunate."

The work crews have performed landscaping, cleaning and other projects that are outside the scope of the National Park Service's awarded contracts for building the memorial, Reinbold said.

For example, two small cabins located within the site's 1,500 acres were essentially gutted and cleaned by the crews for the park service.

Across from the main memorial entrance along Route 30 the work crews have also helped with the Flight 93 "Remember Me" Rose Garden.

The garden is designed as a living tribute to those killed in all three attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Clay Mankamyler, director of the Flight 93 garden, said that crews have been helping to clear the 15-acre site. On Wednesday the work crew was burning brush under his guidance as Moslak and Sroka spoke to the media.

"I think it gives them a sense of ownership when they contribute to something like this," Mankamyler said. "These guys have been great."

Moslak said that some jobs have provided potential training for the soon-to-be-released inmates. "A lot of them didn't know how to paint," he said. "After the job a few of the guys said 'Hey, this is something I could do.'"

Mankamyler said he also talked at length to the guys while working about the history of the area and the scope of the project they were participating in. "It gives them a sense of the land and our history," he said.

Moslak said that one down-side of the program's relatively low public profile is that it is often hard to find enough projects for the crews. "We're always looking to expand," he said.

For more information or to submit a project to the program, please contact Heidi Sroka by email at [hsroka@pa.gov](mailto:hsroka@pa.gov).