

THE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT: INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

By Philip Comey

President Bush's signing of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003 has moved this sensitive topic into the forefront of correctional administrators' minds. While there is an outline, the language of the law and its provisions are still being ironed out. So where does that leave corrections officials in the interim? One workshop, titled "The Prison Rape Elimination Act: An Opportunity for an Update and Discussion," at ACA's Congress of Correction in Baltimore sought to disseminate that information.

Various speakers discussed the vast scope of the law and made it clear that dealing with this issue is not simply a matter of saying that inmates should not rape other inmates, or that staff should not engage in sexual conduct with inmates. This law, according to the workshop speakers, will permeate every aspect of corrections. Anadora Moss, president of the Moss Group Inc., said, "It [PREA] is about prisons, jails, community corrections, military, immigration, juvenile, women offenders, and it's not only about rape, it's about a lot of operation issues, safe communities, [and] it's about reentry." In regards to the scope of the law, Dee Halley, assigned to coordinate the National Institute of Corrections' activities under PREA, said "We go back and look at it [PREA] and we always see something new. This is a very big piece of legislation."

While PREA was established in 2003, a vast pool of information was already at the finger tips of certain corrections personnel. Back in the 1990s, a slue of allegations concerning staff sexual misconduct prompted much investigation into the situation. People reviewing the PREA law are realizing that much of the information gathered from those investigations will be applicable to PREA. In the workshop, Susan McCampbell, president of the Center of Innovative Public Policies Inc., in Florida, presented the lessons learned from the

staff sexual misconduct situation and strategies for future encounters with PREA.

With a Power Point presentation, McCampbell displayed what was determined to be the most applicable information. Regarding leadership, McCampbell explained that a change in personnel should not result in a change in policy. "That was the last director's initiative" is a mentality that will need to be avoided, McCampbell stated. McCampbell stressed that ideas cannot disappear simply because new leadership has taken charge. And an atmosphere of a need for change must be harnessed and grown within an institution. "Why do we have to change? Because staff sexual misconduct is basically a breach of security in any jail, prison or community correction setting," McCampbell said.

McCampbell also discussed policy essentials. What appeared to be glaringly obvious was highlighted as not always being so. McCampbell used her experience as an example, citing numerous instances in which employees were not even aware of their own state or facility statutes banning sexual misconduct. McCampbell recommended that corrections officials ensure that everyone understands current and future policies regarding inappropriate, sexual behavior.

The necessity of making language concise and poignant was also made clear by McCampbell. "I can't tell you how many policies I have read in the last six years where the direction to the staff is as follows: 'Don't become overly familiar with inmates,'" McCampbell said. She continued by recommending the avoidance of language that can leave situations open for interpretation. Instead, the policy should blatantly state what it is trying to prevent. Also, there is a need for more than one policy. The idea that just saying "staff shouldn't have sex with inmates" does not suffice. It is necessary to holistically address (with

policies) the varying issues that fall under the scope of prison rape, according to McCampbell.

Barbara Owen, professor of the Department of Criminology for California State University discussed preliminary findings from focus groups of staff from various facilities regarding the issue of prison rape. The study was conducted by the Moss Group in 12 sites across the country. Owen discussed ways that questions were developed and some of the information that was gathered. First, staff said that rape is usually one-on-one as opposed to the gang rape scenario, prevalent in public perception. Staff in the study also cited vague policies and inmate overcrowding as contributing to occurrences of prison rape.

The workshop also gave attendees a chance to view a PREA video created by the National Institute of Corrections. The video, produced and distributed soon after the signing of PREA, covers the basics of the law and some of the most important things that institutions must do to comply. The video stated that classifying inmates appropriately can greatly decrease the risk of victimization. The video also discussed the fact that, regardless of the law, agencies should not allow prison rape to occur

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The Prison Rape Elimination Act

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in their facilities. One person on the video succinctly stated that an inmate's punishment is coming to prison; it should not be getting assaulted.

Later in the workshop, various correctional personnel and administrators had the opportunity to discuss their dealings with prison rape at their respective facilities and regions. Larry Norris, the director of the Department of Corrections in Arkansas, explained that in the 1980s they began to see the patterns of certain predators and the characteristics of victims. This prompted more serious inmate classification and the separation of certain predatory inmates. Heather Simmons, PREA project manager for the Department of Corrections in Waterbury, Vt., also shared her experience. She explained that it is necessary to ensure that staff, as they begin to engage in PREA training, understand that PREA is a security issue. Lynn Delano, prison administrator of the Office of Correctional Operations for the Washington Department of Corrections, shared the idea of having a toll-free number for reporting an instance of sexual assault. Finally, Doug Dretke, director of Correctional Institutions Division for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, explained that to be able to have a positive influence on changing inmate behavior you must have a safe prison environment where that can occur.

Later in the day, another workshop addressed PREA. The Bureau of Justice Statistics hosted the workshop titled "Implementing the Prison Rape Elimination Act: Findings From the 2004 Survey on Sexual Violence in Prisons and Jails." Specifically stated under the PREA law is that BJS is required to annually gather data pertaining to prison rape from no less than 10 percent of all correctional facilities in the United States. With the information from 2004 gathered and digested, BJS recently released their findings, and the workshop presented an opportunity to talk about how that data was gathered and what some of the information may suggest.

Allen J. Beck, chief of the Corrections Statistics Program for BJS, began the workshop by explaining that the data was collected from more than 2,700 adult and juvenile correctional facilities. Beck discussed how BJS, fully aware that flexibility would have to be a part of the process, designed six different surveys to better fit certain types of facilities.

An important aspect of trying to collect the information focused on how prison rape was going to be defined. Beck said that it was broken down with the first two categories pertaining solely to inmate-on-inmate sexual acts and the last two regarding staff sexual misconduct: nonconsensual, sexual acts; abusive sexual contacts (this included intentional and inappropriate touching, either directly or through the clothing); staff sexual misconduct; and staff sexual harassment (including verbal comments of a sexual nature).

Among some of the more noteworthy data discussed was the fact that 5,528 allegations of sexual violence were reported in the survey, resulting in an estimate of 8,210 allegations nationwide. However, correctional authorities substantiated only 1,213 incidents of sexual violence, resulting in an estimate of 2,090 substantiated incidences nationwide. One statistical comparison that caught the attention of the media and the public from these preliminary numbers was the larger amount of sexual violence allegations coming from juvenile facilities, compared to adult facilities. However, Beck suggested taking a closer look at the data. Beck explained that numerous state laws mandate the report of abuse or neglect at juvenile facilities and that prior to the passing of PREA, juvenile facilities had rigorous reporting methods already in place. This, he said, contributed to the higher number. Another issue to consider was consensual, sexual acts. Unlike in

adult facilities, juvenile facilities consider any sexual contact between residents to be illegal.

Some other striking information was gathered about gender differences. The idea of staff-on-inmate abuse that many people hold, regardless of validity, is that of a male officer committing an act against a female inmate. While this mental construction was found to hold true in regards to jails, data gathered by BJS suggested that 69 percent of victims of staff sexual misconduct were male, while 67 percent of perpetrators were female. Beck explained that this data may be showing a link between length of interaction between inmates and staff as an indicator of potential violations of PREA. As Beck explained later, the more data that BJS gathers, the more they will be able to pinpoint trends, which can eventually be used to shape the face of staff training and inmate orientations.

Next, Timothy A. Hughes, statistician of the Corrections Statistics Program for BJS, reviewed the requirements of the PREA act, where BJS is concerned, including the annual requirements and minimal, sampling mandate of no less than 10 percent of all correctional facilities. Hughes also said that institutions will be ranked according to incidences of prison rape and that a list of facilities that refuse to engage in the survey will be compiled and reported. Also, at least one facility in each state will be surveyed.

On the Line

www.aca.org

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The challenges associated with gathering such delicate information were also discussed by Hughes. Anonymity and confidentiality are needed to convince the inmates to respond and will help with the collection of accurate information, Hughes said. Another tactic to be used by BJS will be the randomization of the content of the surveys, as well as having some different questionnaires. That way, inmates cannot be sure of what is being asked of other inmates in surveys, explained Hughes. Also, demographic data will be detached from the survey and will not be considered in BJS reports, Hughes explained.

Presenter Paige M. Harrison, statistician of the Corrections Statistics Program for BJS, discussed the special challenges faced with juvenile populations. For example, the delicate nature of juveniles will require careful human subject review and approval. Another challenge faced when dealing with this population is language. According to Harrison, the minimal reading level of juveniles will prompt BJS to restructure and reword its survey questions to suit this population. Also, if a surveyor is told by a juvenile that they have been the victim of prison rape that information is required to be reported to Child Protective Services.

Among other information highlighted by BJS in its report was the fact that 42 percent of allegations of sexual violence involved staff sexual misconduct, while 37 percent involved inmate-on-inmate non-consensual, sexual acts. Also, 11 percent of the allegations were of staff sexual harassment and 10 percent were of abusive, sexual contact. Also highlighted was the fact that males comprised 90 percent of victims and perpetrators of inmate-on-inmate nonconsensual, sexual acts in prison and jail.

Both workshops demonstrated that the size and scope of PREA will require corrections professionals to exercise patience. As the methods of gathering data become refined, and as data is analyzed and interpreted, it is predicted that the amount of and reasons behind prison rape will unfold. Once this data is processed, staff training can effectively be shaped and inmates can receive necessary prevention, safety and reporting information. Above all, speakers emphasized that with the implementation of PREA will come safety to institutions. And this institutional safety will inevitably transfer to public safety.

Philip Comey is assistant editor of On the Line.

135TH CONGRESS OF CORRECTION

Thank you to those of you who attended the 135th Congress of Correction in Baltimore, Aug. 6-11, 2005. The week included more than 106 workshops and sessions; offered you an opportunity to obtain those valuable continuing education units (CEUs) as well as continuing medical education/Florida-continuing education (CMEs/CEs); and afforded attendees a chance to network and to view some of the most up-to-date services and technologies available in the corrections field in the largest exhibit area of its kind. Congratulations to our Grand Prize Giveaway winner who left the conference with a brand new 2005 Jeep Liberty. Watch for the October issue of *Corrections Today* magazine to obtain complete conference coverage. We know that in today's world, budgets are tight and funds are stretched, so we are especially honored that you chose to spend the week with us. Thanks again, and now on to Nashville, Tenn., in January. If you could not make Maryland, we hope to see you in Tennessee.

NOMINATIONS

It's that time again — time to nominate a colleague for a leadership position with the American Correctional Association. The Nominating Committee will meet in the fall of 2005, and our 2006 elections will be held next spring. Nomination forms can be found on line at www.aca.org or in the August issue of *Corrections Today*, which will outline the positions available for nomination. Your assistance in this process is very much appreciated.

2006 CONGRESS WORKSHOP TOPICS

The Congress Program Planning Committee met at the end of the ACA Congress in Baltimore to develop the workshop tracks for the 136th Congress of Correction to be held in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 12-17, 2006. ACA is always in need of good workshop submissions. If you have

a workshop topic to suggest, please e-mail Peg O'Brien, professional development specialist, at pobrien@aca.org. The theme for this Congress is "Reaching Out: Overcoming Barriers for Successful Criminal Justice Programs." We appreciate your input.

CORRECTIONS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Interest in the ACA Corrections Certification Program is growing, and the number of certified corrections professionals (CCPs) continues to increase. Prior to the Baltimore conference, 543 individuals had successfully passed their examinations in one of the four categories — CCE (executive), CCM (manager), CCS (supervisor) and CCO (officer). Testing was conducted during the Baltimore conference as well. We are confident that the number of CCPs will continue to rise. We are now able to offer examinations at many of ACA's chapter and affiliate conferences and at remote locations. We want to say congratulations again to all of you involved in the Corrections Certification Program for a job well done in the advancement of your career. If you would like additional information on certification or how we can conduct examinations in your area, please visit our Web site, www.aca.org, or contact Bob Levinson at bobl@aca.org.

E.R. CASS AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to **Glenn S. Goord**, commissioner, New York State Department of Correctional Services, Albany, N.Y.; and **Charlotte Nesbitt**, MA, president, National Association of Juvenile Correctional Agencies and executive director (ret.) Southwest Indiana Regional Youth Village, Vincennes, Ind., on receiving the prestigious E.R. Cass Correctional Achievement Award at our Baltimore Conference. This award is ACA's highest award in honor of Edward R. Cass who served as secretary of ACA for 40 years. We were proud to give it to these fine, outstanding corrections professionals. Congratulations again to both of you. ♦

JOB BANK

■ ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PROBATION AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
Tallahassee, Florida

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice in Tallahassee, Fla. is seeking to fill the position of assistant secretary for probation and community corrections. This is a key, senior management level position and the incumbent will report directly to the deputy secretary. The assistant secretary of probation and community corrections provides leadership in planning, directing, organizing, and evaluating the programs and services of the probation and community corrections offices throughout Florida.

Juvenile probation services in Florida are a state administered service. All juvenile probation officers are state employees and all probation contracts are managed through the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, a state agency.

Qualifications: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and seven years of professional experience in juvenile justice, corrections or law enforcement. Preference will be afforded applicants possessing advanced degrees and vast experience in managing complex community corrections programs.

Salary will be commensurate with experience, education and demonstrated proficiencies. Contact Louise Mondragon, Chief of Personnel, Department of Juvenile Justice, 2737 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32399-3100.

■ REGIONAL QUALITY/STANDARDS COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR Community Education Centers Colorado/Indiana/Western Regions

At Community Education Centers, the nation's leading provider of drug and alcohol treatment and educational services, we believe that the key to improving lives is changing attitudes. We hold our residents to a higher standard and treat them in a humane and dignified manner. Our employees are all teachers who are compassionate and sensitive to each individual's needs, yet strong enough to be able to create a structured environment that sets limits and promotes individual responsibility. With more than 20 locations for adults and adolescents across the country, our rapid

LOCAL FORUM

■ **Maryland** — Despite five years with minimal changes in inmate health care costs, a 60 percent increase in spending was approved by the state Board of Public Works that might propel health costs to \$110 million as officials attempt to boost medical services for the 27,000 inmates in the state's facilities, reported the *Baltimore Sun*. State corrections officials cited numerous factors as contributing to the increase in costs such as treating inmates with AIDS and hepatitis C, and having to hire more health care staff. "I believe we've created something that will work for all of us," Mary Ann Saar, secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services told board members Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich and Comptroller William Donald Schaefer. Last year, \$68 million dollars from the state went toward inmate health care, state corrections officials said. "It's a shame to pay \$100 million for people who go out and rape and kill...and there are [law-abiding] people who don't have any medical care at all," said Schaefer.

■ **Connecticut** — A new program at the Charlene Perkins Center at York Correctional Institution aims to help women within 18 months of release prepare to reenter society, *The Hartford Courant* reported. The center concentrates on the unique needs of women getting ready to make the change from inmate to citizen and from confinement to motherhood. Programs offered also show women how to complete important tasks such as obtain a driver's license and get mental health care once they are back in society. Corrections commissioner Theresa C. Lantz has said that if the program proves successful, it may be used as an example for other facilities. The center's program

growth has created a constant need for individuals with your strength and determination. Join us as we continue to change lives and society for the better.

Summary of Responsibilities: The regional quality/standards compliance coordinator will have extensive knowledge in the field of accreditation (ACA, ACI, ACRS, etc.), quality management, contract compliance, and licensing standards (including ADAD and DCJ) and be responsible for overseeing the quality improvement process at their designated

is available to women who are housed in the minimum security portion of the York Correctional Institution and have no pending charges or prior history of escape. Many of the women involved in the program have expressed their approval. "This building and the programs give me self-esteem," said Dominique Berube, 33, an inmate who is scheduled for release in September. Development for other programs to be offered at the center are already underway such as a job center that would give women access to a state Department of Labor job bank instead of looking through ads that may not be current.

■ **Colorado** — Operation Starting line, a prison outreach program, is attempting to teach inmates how to make the transition back to the community using celebrity volunteers, reported the *Denver Post*. The Christian program offering religious and life-skills training has volunteers including Miss America 2003 Erica Harold and Marvis Frazier, the son of boxing legend Joe Frazier. The main objective of the group is to curve recidivism rates in Colorado as well as the nation. Thirty-eight jails and prisons across Colorado will host about 500 Operation Starting Line volunteers coming from numerous churches, said Michelle Farmer, spokeswoman for the program. Celebrities like Frazier offered stories about life intertwined with religious messages during a three-hour musical and testimonial program for 60 inmates. Frazier told the group that despite faults in his boxing career, his father still loved him. Frazier said that the inmates had a similar connection with Jesus, who loved them despite their past.

— Philip Comey

sites. This will include assisting in maintaining and achieving accreditation. This will not replace the internal quality improvement processes at the site but will provide oversight for these practices. The person will be responsible for collecting information, not creating it. The regional quality/standards compliance coordinator will be assigned to maintain accreditation at CMRC, CAE, Tooley Hall, CABH, CRC/CAC (in Colorado), Liberty Hall (in Indiana) and any new ACA con-

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CORRECTIONS CALENDAR

■ **American Correctional Association**, Workshop, "Offenders Manipulation Prevention for Correctional Staff," Sept. 12-13, ACA, 4380 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706. Contact Peg O'Brien, professional development specialist, at (301) 918-1905; pobrien@aca.org; or register online at www.aca.org.

■ **National Tactical Officers Association**, 22nd Annual Tactical Operations Conference, Sept. 11-16, Las Vegas. For more information, visit www.ntoa.org.

■ **National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice**, Policy Academy, "Improving Services for Youths With Mental Health and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders in Contact With the Juvenile Justice System," Sept. 13-15, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Bethesda, Md. Contact Dana Herbert at (866) 962-6455, ext. 244.

■ **Western Correctional Association**, 2005 Annual Conference, Sept. 13-16, Little America Hotel, Cheyenne, Wyo. Contact Terry Hays at (307) 856-9578 or thays@wdoc.state.wy.us.

■ **GWC Inc.**, Sixth Annual National Conference on Addiction and Criminal Behavior, Sept. 18-21, St. Louis. For more informa-

tion, call 1-800-851-5406 or visit www.gwcinc.com.

■ **Idaho Correctional Association and the Idaho Juvenile Justice Association**, 18th Annual Joint Congress, "Building Bridges for Success," Sept. 18-21, Red Lion Hotel, Lewiston, Idaho. Contact Terrie Rosenthal at (208) 424-3730.

■ **Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice**, The Ernst van Loben Sels Conference on Reconstructing Youth Corrections in California, Sept. 20, Sacramento, Calif. For more information, visit www.cjcj.org or e-mail juvenilejustice@hoperoadconsulting.com.

■ **Montana Correctional Association**, 53rd Annual Training Conference, Sept. 20-22, Grantree Inn, Bozeman, Mont. Contact Rae Forseth at (406) 444-9819 or rforseth@mt.gov.

■ **West Central Warden's and Superintendent's Association**, Annual Conference, Sept. 25-28, Millennium Hotel, Minneapolis. Contact Debbie Beltz at (651) 717-6112 or visit www.wcwsa.com.

■ **Correctional Security Network**, Correctional Security Conference 2005, "Managing Risks and Resources: The Reality of

Correctional Security Management," Sept. 25-28, Cincinnati. For more information, call (859) 626-1346 or visit www.correctionalsecurity.org.

■ **Wisconsin Correctional Association**, 2005 Annual Conference, Sept. 26-27, Olympia Resort and Conference Center, Oconomowoc, Wis. Contact Dick Taddey at (920) 526-3244 or taddydb@ticon.net.

■ **Association for Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders**, 11th National Conference, Oct. 1-5, Sheraton Norfolk Hotel, Virginia. Contact Joyce Fogg at joyce.fogg@vec.virginia.gov.

■ **American Correctional Association**, Workshop, "Teambuilding and Conflict Transformation," Oct. 2-4, ACA, 4380 Forbes Blvd., Lanham, MD 20706. Contact Peg O'Brien, professional development specialist, at (301) 918-1905; pobrien@aca.org; or register online at www.aca.org.

■ **Association on Programs for Female Offenders and Minnesota Department of Corrections**, 11th National Workshop on Adult and Juvenile Female Offenders, "Clearing the Path for Girls and Women —

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Job Bank

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tracts in the Western Region. This position requires travel and may be physically located at any Community Education Centers facility.

Job Duties:

- Maintain ACA documentation files;
- Maintain monthly outcome measures;
- Monthly walk-throughs of the facilities;
- Monthly team meetings;
- Audit various departments monthly;
- Spot check facilities;
- Assist other sites in maintaining and achieving accreditation (ACA, NCCHC, etc.);
- Oversee accreditation teams' responsibilities;
- Create annual reports, compile annual outcome measures and

assist in producing corrective action plans; and

- Maintain quality standards and contract compliance.

Reporting Structure: The regional quality/standards compliance coordinator will report directly to the corporate accreditation manager with a reporting line to the director at each of the above facilities.

Qualifications:

- Experience working with the ACA accreditation process, specifically ACI standards;
- Treatment oriented and experience in treatment systems;
- Experience with quality improvement practices;
- Auditing experience;
- Bachelors' degree required;
- At least three years experience in the corrections field;

- Good communication skills (written and verbal);
- Ability to maintain objectivity and professionalism;
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills;
- Detail oriented and organized;
- Ability to multitask and meet deadlines;
- Team-building skills; and
- Ability to create, modify and implement policies and procedures and operational manuals.

Community Education Centers offers a full spectrum of benefits including medical, dental and 401k. Please apply via e-mail by sending your resume in Word format to bhesterfer@cecintl.com or fax to (973) 740-9143. Resumes must include salary history and requirements for consideration. We conduct drug testing as a condition of employment. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. For more information, visit www.cecintl.com. ♦

■ **Jackie Crawford**, director of the Nevada Department of Corrections, is among eight people being honored with the *Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government*. “Jackie Crawford has set a high standard of excellence in her position as director of the Department of Corrections, and she is very deserving of this wonderful national recognition,” Gov. Kenny Guinn said. Crawford is being honored for her outstanding work in reforming prisons in Nevada. The yearly awards are given to women who better the lives of others through dedication and hard work. Crawford is noted for changing the culture of corrections to a more learning and structured mode, geared toward success for inmates and staff. She is the first woman director of the Department of Corrections and was appointed by Gov. Guinn in 2000. Violence in all 19 facilities statewide has decreased and she is credited with reducing lawsuits and lowering costs. Crawford is also seen as approaching corrections with equal concern for custody and treatment for the offenders. Crawford said she is humbled by the recognition and said that it was rewarding to learn of the many dedicated professionals in her field acknowledging her achievements. The July issue of *Good Housekeeping* will profile all eight selected winners.

■ **Deputy Jennifer Fulford-Salvano** of the Orange County Sheriff’s Office in Florida was among the **2003-2004 Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor** recipients for her actions in the line of duty. On May 5, 2004, Fulford-Salvano responded to a call from an 8-year-old boy who told the police that “strange men” with weapons were in the house and that he was hiding with his sister in a van in the garage. Fulford-Salvano was first on the scene and checked on the condition of the children in the garage. Meanwhile, the two men emerged from the house and opened fire on the deputies. Stuck between the two vehicles in the garage and the men firing at her, Fulford-Salvano was hit 10 times, including in her shooting hand. Fulford-Salvano managed to regain her weapon and returned fire until both men went down. The two men were arrested and the children were unharmed in the incident. Vice President Dick Cheney and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales presented the recipients with the Medal of Valor on July 14, 2005, during a ceremony at the White House. The Medal of Valor, authorized by the Public Safety Medal of Valor Act of 2001, is awarded by the President of the

■ *Serving Children and Families of Adult Offenders: A Directory of Programs*, is now available from the National Institute of Corrections. This directory lists programs in the United States and provides a link to programs in Canada that offer services specifically for children and families of adult offenders. Each entry provides the following information: telephone, address, e-mail, Web site, contact person(s), area served, year established, publications, and a brief description of the program and its services. To access this directory, go to www.nicic.org/Library/020200.

■ *American Indian Suicides in Jail: Can Risk Screening Be Culturally Sensitive?* is a recent National Institute of Justice study that found that the screening questionnaire used by a county jail located near Indian lands failed to elicit direct responses about personal matters from American Indian detainees. The researchers suggest that designing more culturally sensitive risk assessment protocols may help jail administrators better identify detainees at risk for suicidal behavior and reduce the incidence of suicide. This Research for Practice is intended for jail administrators whose detainees include cultural or racial minorities. To download the report, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/207326.htm.

■ NIC has released *The Gender-Responsive Strategies Project: Jail Application*, which informs jail administrators about current research regarding female offenders and introduces strategies for administrators to consider as they evaluate

current operating procedures. Sections of this bulletin include: introduction; women in jail — their numbers and characteristics; the Gender-Responsive Strategies project — approach and findings; six gender-responsive guiding principles — implications for jail administrators; jail classification and gender-responsive strategies for implementation in a jail setting; challenges and how to overcome them; parity and equity in programming; next steps; improving jail operations — how jail administrators benefit from considering gender-responsive strategies; and Maximizing Opportunities for Mothers to Succeed (MOMS): Alameda County Sheriff’s Office, Oakland, Calif. The full text is available at www.nicic.org/Library/020417.

■ The Office of National Drug Control Policy announces the release of a publication that debunks the myth that America’s prisons are filled with low-level, nonviolent marijuana users. Pro-drug advocates actively spread misinformation about the number of people in prison for marijuana, and their claims are widely accepted as conventional wisdom. However, *Who’s Really in Prison for Marijuana?* uses the most reliable state and federal data to show that the number of inmates imprisoned solely for marijuana offenses is actually quite low, and only a fraction of that number are first-time offenders. The vast majority of drug inmates, in fact, are traffickers, violent criminals, repeat offenders or various combinations of these types. The report is available online at www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/publications/whos_in_prison_for_marij. ♦

United States to public safety officers cited by the Attorney General.

■ **Robert P. Houston**, director of the Department of Correctional Services, has announced that **Robin L. Spindler** has been appointed **assistant director of Administrative Services** for the Department of Correctional Services. The position is responsible for numerous operations within the agency including: budget administration, purchasing/inventory, staff training, correctional industries, accounting, federal surplus property, information systems, engineering, safety and sanitation, accommodations, inmate transportation and extradition, human resources and organizational development. Spindler started her career with

the Department of Correctional Services where she was business manager at the Omaha Correctional Center in 1987 and later joined the Nebraska State Penitentiary in the same position. Spindler left the Department of Correctional Services in 1990 to join Newman Development Corp. as general manager. In January of 1993, she accepted a position as business manager with the Department of Education, but in August 1993 she rejoined the Department of Correctional Services as budget officer. Her current position is budget management analyst and administrator for training. Spindler received her Bachelor of Science degree from Creighton University and her law degree from Creighton University School of Law. ♦

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ACA ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF SEVERAL NEW TRAINING RESOURCES

Over the years, the amount of training required for correctional staff has continued to increase. Not surprisingly, most organizations are challenged to provide staff with the training resources they need without leaving an institution short-staffed and without spending too much money. For these reasons, many organizations have turned to the American Correctional Association and its catalog of self-instructional courses for training. Courses are available on a variety of topics, ranging from management to legal issues. ACA recently released three new additions to its course catalog.

Each of the three courses listed below are available for \$29.95 and include one copy of the final exam. Additional copies of the exams can be purchased for \$17.95 each. As with other courses, you can return your final exam to ACA for grading. If you successfully complete the exam, you will receive a certificate from ACA.

"Understanding Ethics and Ethical Behavior" examines the concepts behind ethical behavior in corrections. It provides staff with a better understanding of how these ideas apply to them in the everyday performance of their jobs. "Understanding Ethics and Ethical Behavior," item #960-OTL, is equivalent to 10 hours of in-service training.

Correctional staff members supervise offenders who are often manipulative and anti-social. Staff can easily fall prey to manipulation and end up crossing the boundaries of ethical and legal behavior without proper training. "Crossing the Boundaries of Professionalism" will help correctional staff to determine their limitations when interacting with offenders. This course, item #962-OTL, is equivalent to 10 hours of in-service training.

Working in the correctional environment is both demanding and stressful for correctional staff. Because a failure to manage stress may lead to unethical behavior, maintaining mental and physical fitness is critical. The goal of "Maintaining Ethics Through Mental and Physical Fitness" is to help correctional

staff learn how to stay mentally and physically fit both in their professional and personal lives. This course, item #961-OTL, is equivalent to 10 hours of in-service training.

Also addressing this subject area is ACA's new book, *Stressed Out: Strategies for Living and Working in Corrections* by Gary F. Cornelius. The second edition of this ACA best seller offers guidance for dealing with the negative stress associated with the job. Cornelius identifies what stress is and teaches strategies to combat it both on and off the job through such techniques as time management, relaxation, diet and exercise. He describes how the offender and staff members can cause stress. Although it is impossible to remove all of the stress from your job, this book provides diet, exercise and coping strategies to effectively manage stress. *Stressed Out*, item #257-OTL, is available to ACA members for \$16 and to nonmembers for \$20.

To learn more about these titles, to place an order or to request a copy of the 2005 ACA summer-fall product catalog, contact ACA's customer service department at 1-800-222-5646, ext. 1860. You can also place your order or view the entire catalog online at www.aca.org.

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

With the 135th Congress of Correction behind us, the Professional Development Department is making plans for the 136th Congress of Correction, which will be held in Charlotte, N.C., Aug. 12-17, 2006. The theme for the Congress is "Reaching Out: Overcoming Barriers for Successful Criminal Justice Programs." The major track topics are: human resources, juvenile justice, health care, reentry, disproportionate minority confinement, gender issues, gangs and terrorism, jails and prisons, partnerships, violence prevention and technology. If you would like to submit a workshop proposal for consideration into the program, visit www.aca.org/development/programform01.asp and complete the Workshop Proposal Program Planning Form 1 or call Peg O'Brien at 1-800-222-5646, ext. 1905. ♦

Corrections Calendar Continued from page 5

A Call for Action," Oct. 15-19, Marriott Airport Hotel, Bloomington, Minn. Contact JoAnn Morton at (207) 348-6908 or visit www.ajfo.org.

■ **Juvenile Justice Trainers Association**, 11th Joint Conference on Juvenile Services, Oct. 16-19, Richmond, Va. Contact the National Partnership for Juvenile Services at (859) 622-6259 or e-mail njps@eku.edu.

■ **National Youth Court Center**, "Youth Courts: An Implementation Seminar," Oct. 17-19, Cincinnati. Contact the National Youth Court Center at (859) 244-8193; nycc@csg.org; or visit www.youthcourt.net/training_ta/2005/OH_Overview.htm.

■ **ASTM International**, Committee F12 on Security Systems and Equipment Meeting, Oct. 17-19, Hyatt Regency Dallas. Contact Joe Hugo at (610) 832-9740; jhugo@astm.org; or visit www.astm.org/commit/F12.htm.

■ **Virginia Correctional Association**, Annual Training Conference, "Partnering for Progress," Oct. 19-21, Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. Contact John Taylor at (804) 674-3423 or taylorjb@vadoc.state.va.us.

■ **Canadian Criminal Justice Association**, 30th Canadian Congress on Criminal Justice, "Viewpoint 2005: Is the Future Ours to See?," Oct. 26-29, Westin Calgary Hotel, Canada. Contact CCJA at (613) 725-3715 or visit www.ccja-acjp.ca/cong2005/en/.

■ **Bureau of Justice Statistics and Justice Research and Statistics Association**, 2005 National Conference, Oct. 27-28, St. Petersburg, Fla. For more information, call (202) 842-9330 or visit www.jrsa.org.

■ **International Corrections and Prisons Association**, Conference, "Effective Interventions," Oct. 30-Nov. 4, Edinburgh, Scotland. Contact April Dorion at (613) 233-0720; aprildorion@icpa.ca; or visit www.icpa.ca.

■ **Correctional Accreditation Association of Ohio**, Conference, "Charting the Course Through Accreditation," Oct. 31-Nov. 1, Columbus Marriott North, Ohio. For more information, e-mail julie.riley@odrc.state.oh.us. ♦

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Headquartered in San Diego, **Wireless Facilities Inc.** (WFI) is an independent provider of systems engineering, network services and technical outsourcing for the world's largest wireless carriers, enterprise customers and for government agencies. The company provides the design, deployment, integration, and the overall management of wired and wireless networks which deliver voice and data communication, and support advanced security systems. WFI has performed work in more than 100 countries since its founding in 1994. For more information on WFI, visit www.wfinet.com; or contact Michael Baehr, Vice President, Marketing Communications and Business Development Operations, 4810 Eastgate Mall, San Diego, CA 92121; or e-mail Michael.baehr@wfinet.com.

AFIX Tracker® made its mark in crime scene investigation as the first affordable desktop AFIS (automated fingerprint identification system) for local agencies. It is chosen by more agencies than any other AFIS in the world. Now with version 5 of the fingerprint and palmprint identification software, Tracker's applications will extend into corrections. New technology delivers near immediate response of fingerprint search results. Add to that, improved integration with leading manufacturers of both stationary and mobile fingerprint readers. Beta sites with Tracker v5 are gathering benchmark data in applications such as: inmate release verification, entry and exit access control, and quick two finger I.D.s from handheld fingerprint readers. Contact Joan Vitt at joan@afix.net; (877) 438-2349; or visit www.afix.net.

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