**Message from the Director:**

“Ladies and gentlemen: Today marks a new day for Missouri.” Governor Jay Nixon made this announcement during his inaugural address on Jan. 12, 2009, and our staff, and our mission. Though our focus never waivers from safety and security, the strides we have made in those areas through the years has afforded us the time to also concentrate on our larger mission – diverting offenders from entering prison and ensuring offenders don’t return to prison once they leave. One of the biggest challenges facing our Department is the successful management of offenders in prison and under supervision, and I believe the MRP is an essential tool in combating that challenge now and in the future. Since it was begun in 2005, more than 6,900 offenders have completed the process during a five-to-six-month stay in a Transitional Housing Unit. The recidivism rate after 12 months for those offenders released in the same time period (24 percent compared to 55 percent). The MRP has become a national model for reintroducing offenders to society as productive, contributing citizens. By inspiring our staff and ensuring they have the necessary skills and resources, we can serve as role models in order to change behaviors and make a real difference in people’s lives.

The Department made major investments for the future in 2008 as it is overseeing the entire state of the arts facilities. On Friday, December 5, 2008, the Department moved 481 female offenders from the old Chillotti Correctional Center (CCC) to the new CCC. The facility houses a segment of the state’s female offender population, while providing expanded services in substance abuse treatment, academic education and offender reentry services. The Department also save the opening of four Community Supervision Centers (CSCs) in 2008. The CSCs, located in Kennett, Fulton, Kansas City and Potosi Bluff", are designed to reduce the prisoner growth rate by insuring that only chronic, violent and repeat offenders are incarcerated in Missouri’s 20 state prisons.

These are just a few of the strides the Department is making in 2008. As Missouri Governor, Nixon stated in his State of the State address, “Our challenges are real. But so are the opportunities.” Where would it be more than the Department to be productive citizens.

Sincerely,

George A. Lombardi
Director
Thailand, Taiwan and Canada. The conference provided the information necessary to develop a 24-7 monitoring center. “There was a lot of interest at the conference in our Command Center,” George said. “They see us at the forefront.” The DOC’s Command Center, established in 1995, was created to ensure offenders assigned to the community maintain their curfews and adhere to other restrictions as required. Since its inception, it has grown to respond to all alerts generated from offenders on traditional radio frequency, GPS, voice verification and alcohol monitoring. The Command Center also issues warrants and serves as a point of contact for those on supervision and law enforcement. During the last several years, the Command Center has served as a model for other Criminal Justice organizations in the development of their own monitoring centers.

River Towns Receive Sandbagging Assistance from Mo. Prisoners

Floodwaters ravaged much of Missouri during the Spring of 2008. On March 20, 2008, the Department transported a bulldozer to Piedmont, Mo., a city among the hardest hit during the flooding season. The bulldozer was used to divert a creek to its original channel in order to repair piping for their water system. On March 24, 2008, approximately 50 offenders and 10 staff from Missouri Eastern Correctional Center were dispatched for sandbagging operations and cleanup in Eureka and Pacific. Flooding from the Meramec River had impacted many Missouri River towns threatened by flooding. As of June 17, 2008, more than 186 offenders were sandbagging in northeast Missouri.

DOC Command Center Impress Corrections Professionals

Any corrections agency with intensive levels of community supervision must have a 24-7 operation to respond to critical violations. That was the message four Department professionals delivered at the Innovative Technologies for Community Corrections Conference in Denver on June 11, 2008. Probation and Parole Analyst Brian George, Command Center Unit Supervisor Dave Haslag, and Probation and Parole Assistant IIs Matt Duckett and Trevor Harrison delivered the presentation to about 350 corrections professionals from the United States, China, Thailand, Taiwan and Canada. The conference provided the information necessary to develop a 24-7 monitoring center. “There was a lot of interest at the conference in our Command Center,” George said. “They see us at the forefront.” The DOC’s Command Center, established in 1995, was created to ensure offenders assigned to the community maintain their curfews and adhere to other restrictions as required. Since its inception, it has grown to respond to all alerts generated from offenders on traditional radio frequency, GPS, voice verification and alcohol monitoring. The Command Center also issues warrants and serves as a point of contact for those on supervision and law enforcement. During the last several years, the Command Center has served as a model for other Criminal Justice organizations in the development of their own monitoring centers.

DOC Opens Four New CSCs

State, county and local leaders joined the Missouri Department of Corrections as we opened four new Community Supervision Centers (CSCs) in four areas of the state - Fulton, Kennett, Kansas City and Poplar Bluff. CSCs are designed to reduce the prisoner growth rate by working to insure only chronic, violent and repeat offenders are incarcerated in the state’s 20 prisons. CSCs serve as transitional housing units where offenders are required to work, attend school, attend treatment and fulfill other obligations ordered by the Board or the courts.

DOC Celebrates Milestones

The Department of Corrections had reason to celebrate in 2008 as three of its facilities marked anniversaries. Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Bonne Terre, dedicated in February 2003, celebrated its fifth anniversary on Feb. 13. Women’s Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center (WERDCC) marked its 10th anniversary on Jan. 8, 2008. WERDCC received its first offenders in January 1998, and can house up to 2,076 female offenders. Western Missouri Correctional Center celebrated 20 years in operation on Nov. 7, 2008, and honored 25 staff members who have been with the institution for its entire 20 years. Dedicated in November 1988, the facility houses up to 1,923 offenders.

DOC Hosts Reentry Conference

The Department of Corrections hosted a reentry conference in St. Louis, titled “Missouri Reentry Process: Review, Milestones, Goals.” The conference was attended by corrections professionals from the United States, China, Thailand, Taiwan and Canada. The conference provided the information necessary to develop a 24-7 monitoring center. “There was a lot of interest at the conference in our Command Center,” George said. “They see us at the forefront.” The DOC’s Command Center, established in 1995, was created to ensure offenders assigned to the community maintain their curfews and adhere to other restrictions as required. Since its inception, it has grown to respond to all alerts generated from offenders on traditional radio frequency, GPS, voice verification and alcohol monitoring. The Command Center also issues warrants and serves as a point of contact for those on supervision and law enforcement. During the last several years, the Command Center has served as a model for other Criminal Justice organizations in the development of their own monitoring centers.

Employees

During the 2008 Correctional Employees Week celebration, held on May 6 at Jefferson City Correctional Center, the more than 11,000 dedicated employees of the Missouri Department of Corrections were praised for performing their job duties admirably, often above and beyond the call of duty, to advance our mission, assist fellow colleagues and maintain the safety and security of the State of Missouri and its citizens.

Nowhere was this commitment to safety and security more evident than on Dec. 5, 2008, when staff, with assistance from local law enforcement and various E-Squads, successfully and without incident transferred 481 female offenders from the old Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC) to the new CCC.

Each month the Department honors similar outstanding examples of professional excellence, innovation and commitment with the Employee of the Month Award. In 2008, the Department was doubly honored when Employees of the Month Priscilla Kincaid and Marty Bird (pictured right with Director Lombardi) were subsequently chosen to be State Employees of the Month.

The Director’s Award of Valor is the Department’s most prestigious honor bestowed upon staff who perform heroic or courageous acts despite great personal risk. Farmington Correctional Center’s CO 1 Jonathon Korn (pictured left with Warden Al Luebbers) was one recipient of the honor in 2008, and was subsequently presented with the Governor’s Award of Valor.

**Offenders Moved Into New Chillicothe Correctional Center**

On Friday, December 5, 2008, the Department successfully transferred 481 female offenders from the old Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC) to the new CCC. The new facility houses up to 1,636 female offenders, more than triple the capacity of the old CCC, built in 1887, which housed 525. Missouri’s female prison population has increased by 150 percent during the past 10 years. Missouri housed 1,071 female offenders in fiscal year 1996. Currently the Department houses approximately 2,502 female offenders. The opening of the new CCC relieved overcrowding at the state’s other female institutions - Women’s Eastern Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in Vandalia, allowing it to return to its design capacity.

**River Towns Receive Sandbagging Assistance from Mo. Prisoners**

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Budgeted Staff as of December 31, 2008

- Adult Institutions: 71.30%
- Probation & Parole: 18.56%
- Office of Director: 9.05%
- Human Services: 0.03%
- Offender Rehabilitative Services: 0.00%

Average per diem costs:

- Custody level:
  - C-2 thru S: $43.91
  - C-5: $45.89
  - C-4: $45.01
  - C-3: $44.64
  - C-2: $46.04

- Prison:
  - Average per diem cost: $43.91

- General community supervision:
  - Probation & parole: $3.03
  - Residential facility: $49.36
  - Electronic monitoring: $10.52

Celebrating Success and Planning for the Future,” June 4-6, 2008, for 300 upper level managers and administrators. The conference featured training conducted by the Center for Effective Public Policy, and focused on evidence-based practices, collaboration, case management and assessment, and motivating offenders and staff. The Missouri Reentry Process is one of the Department’s initiatives credited with reducing the overall recidivism rate of offenders released since July 2005. Since Fiscal Year 2005, the 12-month recidivism rate has declined from 35 percent to 31 percent for offenders who were released in Fiscal Year 2007. The reduction in recidivism is one reason the Missouri prison population growth has been negative in recent years. According to the latest Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners Report, the U.S. prison population grew by 2.8 percent while Missouri’s prison population declined by 2.1 percent.