



# Leap...

*and the net will appear.*

— John Burroughs  
early 20th century author

On the  
**Scene**

JUNE 2014



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On the cover, the image symbolizes the progress toward a more peaceful inner self that many victims and witnesses feel after finding kindred spirits among their professional cohorts when attending a post-critical incident seminar presented by the NC LEAP — North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program. Look for the inspiring story on page 4.

To the right is a preview for the July edition of *On The Scene*. Look for coverage of the Department of Public Safety's extensive role in the two U.S. Open golf championships in Pinehurst.

*Photo by George Dudley, editor.*



# Recidivism down 19%

North Carolina<sup>16</sup>

Three-year recidivism rate for 2006 prison releases	Three-year recidivism rate for 2010 prison releases		Percent decline in recidivism rate				
35.8 percent	28.9 percent		19.3 percent				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Prison Population	38,423	39,326	40,824	40,102	41,030	38,385	37,469
Admissions to Prison	27,934	28,535	30,350	28,164	28,975	24,036	21,538
Releases from Prison	26,986	27,637	28,860	28,889	28,048	26,685	22,455

Chart from *Reducing Recidivism: States Deliver Results* by the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

By **Keith Acree**, Communications Officer

Five years after initial work began and three years after Justice Reinvestment was signed into law, recidivism is dropping in North Carolina – and the nation is starting to take notice.

A report released this month from the National Reentry Resource Center at the Council of State Governments Justice Center features North Carolina as one of eight states showing significant declines in recidivism. North Carolina posted the largest decline among those states with a 19.3 percent drop when comparing three-year return to prison rates for inmates released from prison in 2007 to those released in 2010.

Adult Correction Commissioner **David Guice** and Community Corrections Director **Anne Precythe** traveled to Washington, D.C., for the report's release and had a chance to discuss North Carolina's success with officials at the national level. They met with White House advisors, advisors to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. They also discussed Justice Reinvestment and the use of evidence based practices with North Carolina's congressional delegation at a meeting hosted by Rep. Howard Coble of Greensboro.

The Tarheel representatives showed a good understanding of the issues and asked informed questions, Precythe said.

They were impressed with the positive changes in North Carolina's criminal justice system over the past several years. "They now understand how we have changed the entire culture of a state with regard to probation," Precythe said. "Some states have changed their system in a few counties or districts – we completely retooled statewide."

"We have also made changes with regard to sentencing and prison operations," said Guice. "The improvements touch many areas of our criminal justice system."

At an event marking the report's release, governors from West Virginia and Pennsylvania discussed their state's successes and Sen. Rob Portman of Pennsylvania specifically mentioned North Carolina as a strong success story.

Of particular interest to the officials in Washington were "quick dips" – two- or three-day stays in jail that probation officers can impose in order to get the attention of an offender who has violated their supervision conditions. "These quick dips are not used much around the country," Guice said, "but we are having great success with them in North Carolina."

The national media is paying attention to these positive changes as well. Guice has interviewed with a New York Times reporter who is making plans to travel to our state to learn from probation officers, judges and others involved in the criminal justice system about North Carolina's success. ▾

## Juvenile Justice section created Leadership structure set

By **Diana Kees**, Communications Officer  
Following the appointment earlier last month of **William "Billy" Lassiter** as deputy commissioner of Juvenile Justice, Commissioner **W. David Guice** with the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice announced on May 22 the creation of a Juvenile Justice section within the division, to which Lassiter will provide direct oversight.

The Juvenile Justice section has four offices: Court Services, led by **Michael Rieder**; Facility Operations, led by **Dave Hardesty**; Treatment and Intervention Services, led by **Martin Pharr**; and Juvenile Community Programs, whose leader will be named in the coming weeks.

Guice said the Juvenile Justice section was created not to back away from the efforts that have been made to integrate administrative support functions within adult correction and juvenile justice, but to enhance the unique characteristics of these systems. "As I said when we started the consolidation process, it was never my intention to merge the missions of these systems, but rather to build partnerships and create efficiencies to ensure both systems could operate better," Guice said. "Going forward, my deputy commissioners will form working groups in education, food and health services and training to determine where greater efficiencies can be achieved in these areas as well."

As a result of the creation of the Juvenile Justice section, the Adult Facilities and Community Supervision sections of the division will return to their former organizational structure and operations. ▾

A North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program post critical incident seminar took place in April at a Raleigh Church. (Faces blurred for confidentiality.)

# Peace be with you

## LEAP battles bad memories

By **Patty McQuillan**  
Communications Officer

First responders are trained to be strong emotionally as well as physically in the face of an emergency. But the psychological trauma of witnessing a death, being assaulted or experiencing other critical incidents can cause sleepless nights, intrusive thoughts, alcoholism, troubled marriages and even thoughts of suicide.

See *Peace* on page 5



## Peace from page 4

Recognizing that some officers were struggling, the North Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program formed in 2012, and twice a year it provides a powerful three-day peer-to-peer seminar that has proven to be life-changing, and for some, life-saving. The Post Critical Incident Seminars are open to all law enforcement officers, telecommunicators, emergency medical personnel and firefighters who have experienced mental trauma or debilitating stressors.

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NCLEAP co-founders **Danny Leonard**, a former SHP chaplain, and Lt. **Aaron Back** read a note during a recent Post Critical Incident Seminar.



## Peace from page 5

"For most folks who have been in law enforcement, this is not comfortable. This is not the way we were trained. This is not the way our bosses handled it," said State Highway Patrol Lt. Aaron Back, co-founder of NCLEAP. "We were taught it was part of the job, to get yourself together and do what you need to do to get yourself back to work."

The issues are different for each participant and Back said NCLEAP is neither a cure-all nor therapy. "This is what we know as one of the best ways for officers to get past their incident."

At the beginning of the seminar, the attendees hear from peers who have gone through similar situations.

"At the end of the seminar, we see them smiling," Back said. "They've slept through the night for the first time since their incident, they've called their spouses and said, 'I love you,' or they say, 'This saved my life.'"

The peers, who have received three days of training or more, provide crucial support and encouragement to the participants, most of whom are not there by choice. Back said the peers are an indispensable bridge between first responders and mental health professionals.

"A psychologist doesn't know what it's like to be shot or to

shoot someone, and an officer may not confide in their agency's mental health professional, fearing a not-fit-for-duty report," said Back. "Supervisors may say, 'good job,' but only those who have gone through exactly what they've been through can understand and really help."

On April 28, the fifth post critical incident seminar took place at Hope Community Church in Raleigh. Mental health professionals in law enforcement, and first responders who have had similar life-changing experiences were brought in from the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia to provide support throughout the three-day seminar. Spouses were invited to attend, and confidentiality was stressed.

After a welcome from Department of Public Safety Secretary **Frank Perry**, peers shared their personal stories.

Retired SHP Fst. Sgt. Boris Garrett told the group that he self-medicated with Jack Daniels after discovering at the scene of a fatality that the trooper who had been ejected from his vehicle and struck by an oncoming car was his mentor.

Asheville Trooper **Gene Williamson** told about two of his co-workers who were killed during separate traffic stops: One was standing outside his vehicle when he was hit by a passing motorist, and the other was inside his vehicle when an 18-wheeler struck his patrol car, causing it to catch fire.

Probation/Parole Officer **Aaron Budhisetiawan** was in a life and death struggle with an armed probationer, when he shot and killed the man.

Former half marathon runner and SHP Capt. **David Henderson** realized he wasn't John Wayne after all. He witnessed a fatal shooting, a friend was killed in a car accident, a trooper he supervised died in a car wreck and he was diagnosed with colon cancer. He said walls began to build up, and the last straw was when fellow Trooper Gene Demuth was killed in 2012. He tried to find the perfect excuse not to go to the Post Critical Incident Seminar, but he relented and said it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to him.

Retired SHP Lt. Teia Poulin witnessed two suicides, and was with a young motorcyclist when he died following an accident. Poulin attended a similar program in South Carolina that helped

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**Boris Garrett**  
... a retired SHP first sergeant, self-medicated with Jack Daniels.

move her beyond the gruesome deaths.

"We all share something because we've all been involved in a critical incident, not because we chose to be in a critical incident, but because we chose law enforcement," Back said. "We all love our job. We love helping people."

Self-sacrifice can go too far, Trooper Melissa Dorando said. "Just like your weapon and your car, you have to take care of yourself," she said. "We're number one in all things bad – alcoholism, suicide, divorce."

Lt. Poulin agreed. "You're so busy helping others [that] you forget to take care of yourself," she said. "It's not just law enforcement: it's first responders, it's corrections personnel, it's probation and parole, it's all those who work for public service trying to keep the peace. We see a lot of things that the normal

everyday person never sees. You have to have some way to mitigate those stressors, and this program does that."

The seminar is held in the spring and fall and accepts up to 45 participants, including spouses. There is a lot of nervous energy upon arrival, and everyone comes with a different set of issues.

"They've lost limbs, lost loved ones, been shot, or it's cumulative stress that has added up," Back said. "People are going through harrowing stuff. They are struggling. We help build their comfort level and try to mitigate those stressors."

The April seminar included officers who had guns pointed at them or fired shots; correctional officers who had been stabbed or attacked by an inmate; telecommunicators who have heard officers call, 'I've been shot,' who took suicide calls, who heard background screams and have even received horrifying calls about plane crashes.

"No one ever asks how we're doing," one telecommunicator said. "It builds up; it's very hard on us."

Many go through a lot of anger or depression; are embarrassed, hurt or ashamed; feel anxious, shell shocked or hyper-vigilant; cry every night, have flashbacks, shut off emotional feelings and are simply trying to survive.

Several attendees voiced their discouragement that they were being vilified in the media even though they were doing their jobs.

"The news media makes it worse – all eyes are on you," one

said. "It's hard to hear what the news media or the public say," another said.

Others worry, "Will I lose my job?" if their case is under investigation following a shooting or other incident. They feel they are not being trusted.

"Eighty percent of the attendees say their number one issue is their agency's response to what happened to them," Back said.

He gave an example of a police chief in a small town in another state who wouldn't allow his officers to attend a post critical incident seminar following a gruesome murder scene where the mother had killed her children. The chief said if they couldn't deal with it, they needed another line of work.

A critical point for recovery, according to mental health experts, is the concern of the police or fire chief, sheriff or patrol commander.

After the peers told their harrowing stories, the microphone was passed to the participants for them to share their experiences. They opened up slowly. Comments included:

*The bucket has reached its limit.*

*There are times I want to quit.*

*A knock on the door scares me.*

*I push people away because I feel vulnerable.*

*I want things neat and orderly.*

*I don't want to talk about it.*

*Not a day goes by that I don't think about it.*

*It's hard to take someone else through your trauma.*

*I'm not physically hurt, but mentally it takes a toll.*

First responders are often the hardest group of people to treat, a psychologist said, because they suppress their emotions and keep up their defenses.

"There's no treatment that will help you forget about it," said Andy Gruler, retiree of the United States Secret Service and a clinical director of PCIS. "This seminar won't make the incident disappear."

For those whose critical incident seems frozen in memory – or, as therapists say, dysfunctionally stored in the brain – NCLEAP's seminar has licensed professional counselors and therapists available to provide a psychotherapy treatment called Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMD/R). Those who have gone through the process say it does not remove the incident, but it's no longer in the forefront of their memory, and the image becomes black and white or sepia tone rather than living color. The nightmares stop.

EMD/R isn't effective for everyone, but it is very powerful

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*People are going through harrowing stuff. They are struggling. We help build their comfort level and try to mitigate those stressors.*

for many. Margit Sylvester was working for the Raleigh Police Department when Detective Paul Hale was murdered while on duty in 1997. Sylvester was with Hale at the hospital when he was pronounced dead, but she never dealt with the emotions that day brought. More than 13 years later, she experienced a triggering event that led to many months of suffering through haunting images and debilitating emotional episodes.

"EMD/R was a game-changer for me," Sylvester said. "I haven't forgotten what happened, but now I can choose when to recall it. When I do, it is now in the periphery of my mind's eye, and the emotion attached to the image is very subtle."

After attending the Post Critical Incident Seminar, Sylvester became a believer and is now the associate director of NCLEAP. She said many of the people attending the April seminar were probably telling their stories for the first time, as she had. Like Sylvester, law enforcement officers typically keep their mental anguish to themselves, not even sharing their troubles with their spouses.

Even though a first responder may not want to expose family members to their harrowing experience, spouses often say they are tougher than that. If not shared, the side effects of a critical incident – such as anger, alcoholism or depression – can break down relationships.

NCLEAP encourages spouses to attend and connect with peers who have had similar experiences. They are helped to know they are not alone.

On the second day, participants gathered in groups to talk more specifically about the situation or event that brought them to the Raleigh meeting and how to start coping.



Steve Briggs  
... now a retired SHP major,  
shared his personal struggles  
with alcohol and what it took  
to get back while still doing  
the job.

"This starts the healing process," Back said.

After the morning sessions, the group heard from mental health experts who remained throughout the seminar to offer assistance.

Dr. Therese Rando, a world-renowned trauma expert, told the group, "You don't get over a major loss – you learn to live with it," she said. "Let go, readjust, move forward, form a new identity and reinvest. Healthy people who are put in a traumatic experience will have a traumatic re-

action. You can't un-ring the bell. You move forward with scars."

Also speaking was Dr. Gregg Dwyer, a former Naval Criminal Investigative Services officer and current associate professor of psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina. He said law enforcement officers are trained to go toward the shots, they have a higher stress bar, more coping mechanisms, and different reactions; people go toward first responders for help. After a critical incident, some may self-medicate through alcohol or prescription drugs, Dwyer said.

"You are covering up a symptom that you need to address," Dwyer said. "A body can't absorb all the alcohol, the chemical equivalent of formaldehyde, flowing through your bloodstream, and every pill has a side effect."

Retired SHP Maj. Steve Briggs told "a cop's story about drinking." He shared his personal struggles with alcohol and what it took to get back while still doing the job.

At the end of the seminar, the attendees were asked what they had learned. Among the answers:

*It's important to talk about your incident –  
not to be embarrassed or ashamed.*

*It's good to open up, let your guard down and learn  
how to trust people.*

*I learned how it affects your spouse.*

*I'm not alone – that I'm not the only spouse going through  
what I went through.*

*I have more peace of mind now.*

*There are people out there who will listen.*

*I'm sorry I had so much pride to wait as long as I did  
to tell someone.*

*I learned the importance of support.*

*I feel like I can breathe.*

*When I first came in, I saw feet and knees;  
now I can look people in the eyes again.*

*I will share more things with my wife.*

*I learned that crazy thoughts and crazy feelings  
were perfectly normal [after a critical incident].*

*I don't think about the negative anymore.*

*I think about my situation as a positive.*

*I am a survivor. I have a better understanding of myself.  
I slept five hours last night – the first time in two years.*

*I can carry on with what I need to carry on with.*

*I have new coping skills for any other critical incident  
that may come along.*

*It's amazing this has not been done more often than before.  
For 21 years, no one ever approached to say, hey, come to PCIS.*

*It was life-changing.*

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Above, SHP Capt. **David Henderson** of Troop C and Aaron Back explain more about Post Critical Incident seminars to Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank L. Perry.

## Peace from page 8

Former State Highway Patrol Chaplain and NCLEAP co-founder Danny Leonard told the group they were very courageous to be there, baring their souls and sharing secrets.

“You’re a normal person who has been through an abnormal experience,” Leonard said. He quoted a Chicago Police Department chaplain who said, “Never underestimate the corrosive power of constant exposure to evil, suffering and degradation that’s an eight-hour day for police officers in this city.”

While most came reluctantly to the seminar, at the end of the third day, they were smiling and relaxed. They were told

to go back to the grind and give what they had learned a chance, and not to forget the tools.

“We’ve never had anyone leave who wasn’t impacted in some way,” Back said. “We’ve even had police chiefs come through the program. It’s not taboo anymore. We don’t push anyone. If you need us, we’ll be there.” ▴

*‘Never underestimate the corrosive power of constant exposure to evil, suffering and degradation.’*

— Chaplain Danny Leonard

# The LEAP model

For many years, North Carolina State troopers have been providing law enforcement support across the country. In 2007, SHP Lt. Teia Poulin led the response to support law enforcement officers following the Virginia Tech massacre. Teams were used in support of the attacks on 9/11, the Carthage shootings and several others. The North Carolina Highway Patrol has been working to assist law enforcement in Virginia, South Carolina, West Virginia, Georgia and Texas to name a few.

The model for NCLEAP, and five other similar programs in the United States, came from the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s post critical incident seminars that started in 1983. The Carolinas’ PCIS has been running since 1997. The two Carolinas work closely together in providing mutual support for their programs, as does Virginia, Texas and Georgia.

NCLEAP is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dependent on donations. Its services are offered at no charge to the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers and emergency responders.

In addition to the experts who donate their time, Hope Baptist Church has been providing the venue and lunches for the three-day seminar. The 200 Club of Wake County, a nonprofit organization, offsets some training costs to agencies. Wake Technical College offers free peer training for NCLEAP.

NCLEAP’s Website is: [www.nc-leap.org](http://www.nc-leap.org).

Walk in my shoes



Admissions Technician **Jimmy Richardson** interviews a new inmate at Craven Correctional Institution.  
*Photos by Tammy Martin.*

# In the beginning

## ***Prisons admissions technician at front end of the system***

By **Tammy Martin**, Communications Specialist  
VANCEBORO | Placing an inmate in the most appropriate facility and programs starts with accurate intake and processing. For many convicted felons from North Carolina jails, Craven Correctional Institution in Vanceboro is the beginning.

Craven CI is one of the state's largest prison processing centers. The initial processing of an inmate takes a few weeks. During that time, new admissions are assessed to determine assignments to prisons, jobs and programs.

New admissions are tested, evaluated and interviewed. Admissions Technician **Jimmy Richardson** plays a key role in the process.

"I gather the basic information," Richardson said. "Interviewing inmates with a standard set of questions is an important part of the [intake] process. Whether I'm entering information for someone coming into prison for the first time or updating data for a returning offender, every question is significant."

Each inmate is asked a series of questions, including family history and contact information, education and marital status, Richardson said. Admission technicians usually process 50-60 inmates per month.

"We look at everything possible when evaluating inmates — family, education, medical, affiliations, drug and alcohol use — whatever might be a factor during and after incarceration," he said.

Richardson also has duties as a facility intelligence officer, a position that also involves interviewing newly-arriving inmates. The interviews include questions concerning Security Threat Group (STG) affiliation and ranking along with other indicators of activity.

"Working with STG presents other challenges, but it

*See Richardson on page 11*

## Richardson from page 10

is really interesting,” he said. “Processing these inmates is a little different. There are 32 identified STGs, and conducting threat assessments through face-to-face interviews can have a major impact on placement.”

Preceded by stints in the sheriff’s offices of both Beaufort and Pitt counties, Richardson began working in corrections more than 12 years ago. He later transitioned to STG officer, was promoted to sergeant and landed in the Diagnostics Center along with seven other admissions technicians.

With approximately 30 staff members, the Diagnostic Center processes an average of more than 500 inmates per month. The assessment process takes a team of medical, psychological, corrections and administrative professionals to be carried out.

“The best part of my job is my co-workers,” Richardson said. “I work with good people who really care about other people.”

“We believe in helping each other. It takes true teamwork to get the inmates processed and in the right facility.”

While interviewing inmates is Richardson’s primary job, he has served on the Governor’s Gang Task Force since 2006. Working with law enforcement officials from across the state, he works to further identify and share information concerning gangs, their members and associates.

Although having a family and full-time job would be a full day for most people, Richardson finds time to be a substitute teacher on his days off. He plans to continue his education and teach after he retires.

“I love to encourage kids and maybe help them stay out of the corrections system,” he said. “I hope to help them become good citizens. Maybe I can make a difference before they get into trouble.”

Richardson also has a love for music and is a well-respected musician, having performed along the East Coast. A guitarist, he plays mostly blues and jazz.

“Having played in some wonderful venues with some famous and not so famous people, I’ve learned so much about myself and other people,” he said. “My music helps me every day.”

Standing about 6 feet-4 inches, Richardson’s stature is respected. However, the people working around him see his presence in the office as a special gift. He recently saved a co-worker from choking during her lunch break, bringing kudos from employees about his dependability, thoughtfulness and “joyful spirit.”

While shying away from accolades, Richardson considers himself to be “just a regular guy doing an honest day’s work.”

“I try to be a good person,” he said. ▀



Admissions Technician **Jimmy Richardson**.

# A champion for troopers

Lt. Aaron Back oversees  
SHP safety programs

By **Patty McQuillan**, Communications Officer

At first glance, State Highway Patrol Lt. **Aaron Back** is an intimidating 6-foot 5-inch tall man who had hopes of becoming a professional football player after college. Instead, he has become a major champion for law enforcement officers and first responders who wrestle with physical, mental and emotional injuries from traumatic events.

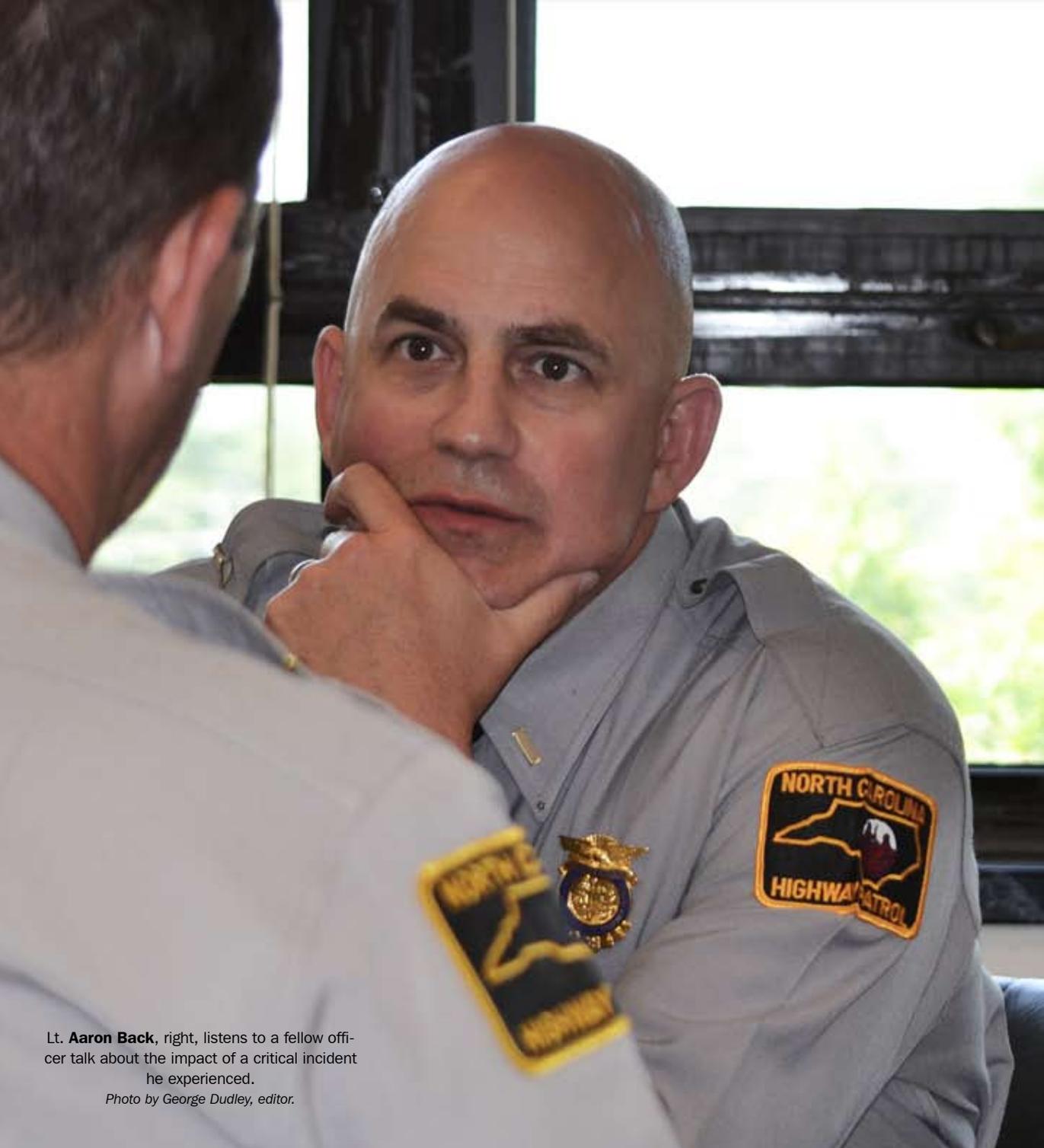
As the Patrol's Special Projects manager, Back oversees several safety programs, including one in which he thought he would never be involved — the Members Assistance Team (MAT). MAT is a peer support program for troopers who are haunted by a critical incident and often won't admit it. Back first heard about MAT in the late 1990s during in-service training, but he quickly dismissed the information.

"I'm not the type who warms up to telling other people my issues," Back said. "I'm not a touchy-feely kind of guy. That's not how troopers of my era dealt with troubles. You talked to a senior trooper, a buddy or self-medicated. You just didn't show any weakness."

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Photo by George Dudley,  
editor.



Lt. **Aaron Back**, right, listens to a fellow officer talk about the impact of a critical incident he experienced.

*Photo by George Dudley, editor.*

## **Back** from page 12

However, a family tragedy totally changed his outlook, and post-critical incident support has become his calling.

Back's transformation began when Fletcher Clay, the colonel of the State Highway Patrol at that time, asked Back if he was interested in becoming the Patrol's wellness coordinator. Back, anxious to leave Raleigh, said yes, hoping he would be able to move around the state. Clay explained that the job included being the coordinator for the Members Assistance Team, and he sent Back that afternoon to MAT training in Virginia Beach. When Back returned from the training, his mother called, upset and screaming that his brother's daughter was killed crossing a street. Back's brother, in law enforcement in Virginia, was on duty that afternoon when his daughter was killed.

Back called his brother to say he was on his way and to ask what he needed to do. "He said, 'I need you to bring my daughter back,' and he hung up the phone," Back said.

Back learned that his brother had refused to leave the morgue and was almost arrested. He began drinking heavily, he would go absent, and his life was spinning out of control.

"I didn't have children at the time, so I didn't understand," Back said. "But God works in mysterious ways."

In Back's MAT training was a South Carolina man who became aware of Back's family tragedy. He asked Back to bring his brother to a critical incident seminar in South Carolina, but Back declined. Ten minutes later, Col. Clay ordered Back to do it. Back learned later that Clay was instrumental in setting up North Carolina's MAT program.

"I carried my brother kicking and screaming, and I told him, 'I'm working. You can sit by the pool for all I care, but I have to go,'" Back said.

Back's brother resisted the outreach, but he listened to the 44 other people in the seminar tell their stories. He was last, and by then he had heard enough to give him the courage to tell his story.

The peer assigned to Back's brother was a South Carolina law enforcement officer who had lost his child in a similar event. He understood firsthand the pain Back's brother was enduring.

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Aaron Back at a Post  
Critical Incident Seminar.  
Photo by Patty McQuillan.



## Back from page 13

"Being able to share with someone who has gone through the same thing is the best medicine," Back said. "The program saved his life and it helped my family tremendously."

Back's brother returned to his job, was promoted to detective in about six months and later had another child. Back said his brother's life is now completely normal, and that even his brother would say that the program saved his life.

Back didn't get the job as wellness coordinator, but what he learned compelled him to start helping South Carolina with its Post Critical Incident seminars. When he was invited to help with the Highway Patrol's PCIS retreat in Hayesville, he saw a preponderance of state troopers. He knew other law enforcement and first responders like his brother needed PCIS help. He talked with several people about opening the sessions to first responders and discovered the Highway Patrol is not allowed to raise money to pay for others to attend. Back asked about starting a nonprofit, and SHP's director of medical programs, Dr. Tom Griggs, said the idea had been talked about for years, but it never got done.

"I started searching for people so we could start a nonprofit," Back said.

SHP Chaplain Danny Leonard and Cary Police Officer Margit Sylvester agreed to help, and together they set up the N.C. Law Enforcement Assistance Program – NC LEAP. The three talked to civic and church groups and anyone else who would listen to raise the money they needed to bring in peers, doctors and therapists from other states and to provide training, meals and assistance for those attending a seminar.

Back was born in Charlottesville, Va., and his family moved to North Carolina, where he lived first in Oxford, then Raleigh and Swansboro. He spent the most time in Swansboro, where he played several sports, including track and football. When he graduated in 1987 from Swansboro High School, he had several scholarship offers. He went to

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Aaron Back on duty during a storm response drill at the Emergency Operations Center.

Photo by Ryan Guthrie, staff photographer.



**Back** from page 14

Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Va., East Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University. He graduated in 1993 from ECSU with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Back's first job was delivering packages for the United Postal Service. He then attended the Highway Patrol training school and became a trooper in 1993. He was happy to be assigned to Jones County, not too far from his family in Swansboro. After six years, he had the opportunity to go to Carteret County. He was there for several years before he was promoted to sergeant and sent to Raleigh, where for six years he oversaw the hiring process.

Back was promoted to first sergeant in 2007 and returned to Carteret County, absolutely loving his time there. He then returned to Raleigh as commandant for the basic training school for two years. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2011 and assigned to Troop E Headquarters in Salisbury for two years before returning to Patrol headquarters in Raleigh in 2012 to serve as the special projects manager.

In his current position, Back works directly with the five SHP majors and the three colonels.

Back manages several special operations, including HAWKS – Helping All Workers Keep Safe – where after-duty troopers patrol construction and work zones across the state. The Toll Safety program is also for off-duty troopers who patrol the state's toll roads.

In addition to managing the Members Assistance Team, Back is the uniformed coordinator for the Patrol's chaplaincy program that has 60 volunteer chaplains who help troopers walk through troubled times.

Back enjoys bluegrass music, but any spare time he has is joyfully spent with his wife, Amy, a critical care neo-natal nurse, and their two daughters, 3-year-old Charlotte and 5-year-old Eleanor. For Mother's Day, Back, who enjoys cooking, made his wife a lemon-provolone chicken dish that he couldn't even taste himself because he's on a special diet. That's typical of his unselfish nature and love for his family. ▴

## Troopers help stop kidnappings

A State Highway Patrol trooper helped end a Warren County family's carjacking ordeal recently.

The family – a husband, wife and two young sons – was driving on a rural road in the late evening when they stopped along a rural road to help who they thought was a stranded driver. The perpetrator claimed to need help because his mother was injured and dying.

When the husband got out of his car to help, the man got into the victim's car and took off. The wife and sons were still inside. But the wife was able to shut the car down by kicking the ignition switch.

At about that time, a state trooper on his way home from work arrived upon the scene and saw the suspect walking westbound on U.S. 158. The trooper drove to the suspect and was talking to him when a confrontation ensued and the trooper subdued the suspect with a stun gun.

The suspect was charged with three counts of kidnapping along with resisting arrest and obstructing justice.

The family said they learned a lesson: In a similar situation, it is better to keep going and call 911.

### Another kidnapping

State Highway Patrol troopers teamed up with federal agents and local sheriff deputies and police officers to thwart a kidnapping that started as a break-in in Knoxville, Tenn.

The victim was driven into North Carolina, but was rescued at a rest stop off of I-40 near Marion.

In addition to the State Highway Patrol, agencies involved in the investigation and rescue were the FBI, the Knoxville and Marion police departments, the McDowell County Sheriff's Office the McDowell County Office of Emergency Management. ▴

## Campaign goal: 15% reduction in fatalities

The North Carolina Highway Patrol has joined a multi-state effort to reduce highway fatalities by 15 percent in 2014.

More than 33,000 deaths occur each year on the nation's highways, allowing highway fatalities to rank within the top 12 causes of death within the United States and be the leading cause of death among teens.

In order to decrease highway fatalities, state police and highway patrol leaders will push a sustained, data-driven effort over the course of the year.

The campaign was kicked off on May 20 at Virginia State Police Division IV Headquarters in Wytheville, Va. Officials from the state SHP were among the participants. ▴



## 134<sup>th</sup> Basic Patrol School graduates

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol conducted its 134<sup>th</sup> Basic Patrol School graduation on Friday, May 30. The graduation ended 30 weeks of extensive academic and physical training. In the front row are members of the training staff. The graduates and their troop assignments were (in alphabetical order):

**Jonathan Acuna**, B3 – Onslow County; **Kevin Bailey**, D2 – Guilford County; **Derek Ball Jr.**, C4- Franklin County; **Peter Britt**, B8 – Harnett County; **Chandler Byrd**, E4 – Forsyth County; **Bradley Campbell**, F4 – Iredell County; **Christopher Carter**, B8 – Harnett County; **Robert Charubini Jr.**, E3 – Rowan County; **Devin Cherry**, B1 – Cumberland County; **Clinton Clay**, C3 – Wake County; **Adam Collins**, A5 – Pitt County; **Brandon Cox**, F3 – Watauga County; **Tabithia Davis**, C3 – Wake County; **Jeremy Devaughn**, C1 – Nash County; **Duane Dugan**, D7 – Orange County; **Joshua Fausey**, D1 – Chatham County; **Jy-rian Fuller**, E4 – Forsyth County; **Jonathan Gouge**, F1 – Burke County; **John Guzman Jr.**, B3 – Onslow County; **Christopher Hall**, B2 – Sampson

County; **Brian Harbour**, D5 – Alamance County; **Daniel Harrell**, C5 – Wilson County; **Shane Herrin**, E3 – Rowan County; **Hunter Hooper**, G5 – Haywood County; **Jeffry Howell II**, H4 – Cleveland County; **John Jackson**, A1 – Currituck County; **Joshua Johnson**, E1 – Davidson County; **Chadwick Johnson**, G5 – Haywood County; **Blake Ketner**, F4 – Iredell County; **Julian Lee**, C7 – Granville County; **Nathan Malin**, F5 – Catawba County; **Jacob Mann**, H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Ryan McDermott**, B6 – Brunswick County; **Dekeith Morris**, C7 – Durham County; **Harrison Nazal**, C6 – Johnston County; **Nathan Parham Jr.**, B1 – Cumberland County; **David Powell**, H5 – Mecklenburg County; **John Renn**, A8 – Carteret County; **David Rodriguez**, H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Brett Sallie**, B2 – Sampson County; **Jermaine Saunders**, H5 – Mecklenburg County; **Joshua Settlemyre**, G2 – McDowell County; **Bryan Terry**, F4 – Alexander County; **Douglas Tew**, B2 – Sampson County; **Jonathan Thomas**, C3 – Wake County.

Right, The Smokey Bears team produces a winning plane-pull time of just under 8.7 seconds. Below, the team members, from left: Trooper **Paul Mitchell** of Troop D-2 Guilford County; Sgt. **Joe Bright** of the Training Academy; **Anthony Chambers**, retired trooper, E-5 Surry County; Trooper **Michael Jones**, B-3 Onslow County; and Trooper **Jeremy Zachary**, D-5 Alamance County.



Photos by Special Olympics North Carolina photographers.

## 'Bears' pull a fast one

The State Highway Patrol's team, The Smokey Bears, were the Grand Champions this year at the 2014 Plane Pull for Special Olympics North Carolina held at the Raleigh-Durham Airport on April 26.

They beat 68 other teams over three rounds, including other Department of Public Safety teams from Law Enforcement and Adult

Correction and Juvenile Justice. It was The Smokey Bears' second championship in the last four years. This was the 16th annual Plane Pull for Special Olympics, which raised more than \$100,000 for Special Olympics North Carolina.

The teams of five attempted to pull a 30,000-pound Delta plane 25 feet for the fastest time. The Smokey Bears' winning time was 8.64 seconds, and the team raised more than \$1,300 for Special Olympics North Carolina.

Community Corrections District 12's team, The Flying Bullets, placed third. Team members included **Jessica Bullock, Leslie Ennis, Felicia Chiambiro, Seth Coleman, Matikia Russell, Jerome Carr, Wilton McCallum** and **Kenneth Wright**. The Flying Bullets was the only team in the law enforcement category that had a female member.

SHP Sgt. Shannon Whaley of Troop B-3 in Onslow County was a member of another team and pulled for the first time this year. His was the only team that included a Special Olympics athlete, who has competed for three years. Their team made the Top 20 in the first of three rounds of pulling. ▴

## Trooper 'saves' his pastor; mission work ahead

LENOIR | State Highway Patrol Sgt. **Gray Williams** recently donated a kidney to his pastor, because, he said, the two of them still had a lot of work left to do.

Keith Gilliam is the pastor at Whitnel Pentecostal Holiness Church in Lenoir, where Williams has been an associate pastor for 13 years. They have traveled on mission trips with a team of masons, welders and carpenters who have built churches or denominational training facilities in Argentina, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

When Gilliam was on dialysis and needed a kidney donor, Williams turned out to be a perfect match.

The surgery took place on May 22.

"I wouldn't have felt right if I didn't get checked to see if I could help," Williams said. "Eight weeks later, we're on the table. His kidneys are working great, and I'm blessed. They said I broke the record – I went home at 3:30 [p.m.] the day after the surgery." ▴

## Running in Boston raises funds for cancer aid

DURHAM | Trooper **David F. Smith** of Durham spent 16 weeks training for the April 21 Boston Marathon so that he could run the 26.2 miles to benefit Cops for Kids with Cancer.

Smith exceeded the required fundraising amount, collecting \$7,200 for the charity. He said this year's Marathon charity raised a total of \$330,000, the largest amount ever, and it tripled last year's amount.

The godmother of Smith's son, a runner herself, encouraged Smith to run in the Boston Marathon. He knew he wasn't fast enough to qualify based on time, so he successfully applied to the Cops for Kids with Cancer charity, which had 35 slots and 200 applicants.

While his wife and three children were at a Boston Red Sox game, Smith was preparing for the next day's race by resting and eating a lot of carbohydrates.

"It is overwhelming when you finish something like that," Smith said. "It got to me....I didn't cry, but I was emotional."

Funds from Cops for Kids with Cancer go to people who are directly involved in the care of children with cancer. The charity typically distributes two to three \$5,000 checks a week to families who have a child sick with cancer. ▴

# SHP celebrates service to people, the agency

Col. Bill Grey, commander of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, and Frank L. Perry, secretary of the Department of Public Safety, presented several employees and civilians with awards from the department.

The awards given included the Purple Heart, Meritorious Service, Meritorious and Appreciation Group Service, Humanitarian, Appreciation, Samaritan, Samaritan Group, Samaritan and Appreciation Group and the Valor Group.

"To serve and protect our great state requires a special calling, and these employees and civilians not only have responded to that calling, but they have taken it to a higher level, exhibiting extraordinary actions worthy of special recognition," Perry said. "Whether they carried out an act of heroism, or provided exceptional service or volunteerism, it is only fitting that we pay tribute to these fine individuals."

Gray commended the recipients for "their actions and contributions to the citizens in North Carolina and to our department."

## Meritorious Service Award

Network Technician **David T. Sizemore**, on his own time and of his own accord, developed and wrote a web-based program that allows networking technicians to see the VIPER monitoring alarms in real time using a computer or smart phone, allowing them to constantly monitor the alarms.

The 65,388 users of the VIPER system in North Carolina all have mission-critical public safety roles, and Sizemore's program ensures the VIPER system remains up and running around the clock.

Sizemore



Mechanic Supervisor I **Leslie H. Manning** developed repair techniques that help return motor vehicles back to service more quickly.

One of the techniques allows the mechanic to remove a broken exhaust manifold bolt while working in a tight space. By welding another nut to the broken bolt, the mechanic is able to use a standard socket to make the repair.

Another technique repairs a bent vehicle frame without compromising structural integrity or strength. A torch and welder are used to straighten the frame and repair the bolt holes that connect supporting attachments, resulting in a straightened frame in factory-like condition.

Faster repairs save the Highway Patrol time and money, without compromising safety.

Manning



Trooper **James L. Hager** is passionate about SHP's vehicle size and weight program.

He vigorously enforces the laws. He passes knowledge that he has developed to younger troopers.

Hager authored the original and current lesson plan that is used in the

Hager



size and weight schools, and he ensures that the curriculum stays current with new laws and patrol policies. Hager is vigilant for new and better ways to develop scenarios and PowerPoint presentations for teaching size and weight laws and regulations.

On- or off-duty, the trooper is always willing to help answer other trooper with questions.



## Meritorious & Appreciation Group Service Award

The Patrol Stroll, created in 2006 in relation to the Patrol's Strategic Plan to improving the health and wellness of all employees, received non-profit status in 2010. The event has been a success every year and has raised more than \$20,000 to support MADD's mission of reducing drinking and driving.

The eighth annual Patrol Stroll is scheduled for Sept. 27 at the Highway Patrol Training Academy.

Members of the Patrol Stroll Committee are Lt. **Donna R. Carter**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. **Ricky P. Hooks**, 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. **Jeffrey L. Miller**, Troopers **Lawrence W. McKeithan** and **Jon M Gurganus**, **J. Howard Swain**, **Thomas Caves**, **Marsha Culler**, **Lisa Evans**, **Karen Tew** and **Julie Ann Gouveia-Pisano**.

Patrol Stroll Committee

## Humanitarian Award

Trooper **Gregory N. Gentieu** founded Operation Blue Christmas, a benevolent organization that anonymously has anonymously provided seasonal gifts and assistance for two families for the past four years.

Deliveries are made while the recipient family is away from its residence. Troopers place the gifts and food in the proper areas and erect and decorate a tree in less than 30 minutes. The family returns home to find Christmas has been provided.

Trooper **Lynn Porcher** has volunteered countless hours with the Badges and Bibles program since 2010 on his off-duty time.

Trooper Porcher's efforts have help lead several at-risk youths away from a gang lifestyle and toward a productive path in society.

*Continued on page 19*

Gentieu



Porcher



### Appreciation Award

Jimmy Maness, an N.C. Department of Transportation maintenance supervisor, has notably helped Troop D District 6 on multiple occasions over the past two years.

He has provided vehicles to support several Texting While Driving campaigns and Booze It and Lose It initiatives.

Maness has also organized fundraisers. One helped pay medical bills for Trooper **Danny Payne**, who battled cancer. Another supported Operation Red Sleigh, which helps provide Christmas gifts for needy children. His compassion, both professionally and personally, has brought better service to the community and has strengthened ties between the SHP and DOT.

Hunt



### Samaritan Award

On March 15, Sgt. **Eric L. Hunt** was in the Troop C District 7 office parking lot when he heard and responded to a crash on Miami Boulevard. At the scene, he observed fire in a vehicle, and underneath the vehicle was a man, Donald Brown, and a moped, both on fire.

Using his fire extinguisher, Hunt quickly extinguished the fire. Hunt's response reduced Brown's possible injuries and possibly saved his life.

Burroughs



On March 11, Trooper **Kenneth R. Burroughs** was the first emergency responder on scene after a tractor-trailer had run red a light and struck a small passenger vehicle on the driver's side.

The driver of the car was pregnant, pinned in her vehicle and had suffered critical injuries. Trooper Burroughs helped the driver by holding her spine in a position that allowed her to resume breathing. Burroughs' actions were integral in saving the injured woman's life.

McLain



On March 31, Trooper **Anthony McLain**, on patrol in Alexander County, heard an EMS dispatch for a cardiac arrest victim at a residence on nearby Sipe Road. McLain responded and arrived ahead of EMS and began CPR on the victim.

Upon arrival, EMS technicians provided advanced life support measures that revived the victim's pulse. McLain's attention to local service calls and his willingness to provide lifesaving care gave the victim an opportunity to survive that might not have existed otherwise.



O'Shields

On Sept. 21, 2013, Trooper **Stephen O'Shields** heard and responded to a report of a female threatening suicide by jumping off a bridge near his location.

O'Shields was able to lure her away from jumping, thus saving her life.

### Samaritan Group Award

On Feb. 7, **Doris C. Godbey**, office assistant IV, and Troopers **Leevan I. Tuckler** and **Frank E. Odell**, helped a young man, Daniel, who was having multiple seizures.

Blankets were provided. They helped clean Daniel's mouth where he had bitten his tongue, and helped keep him from causing further self-injury. The trio also comforted Daniel as he became oriented after the seizures. Their quick actions helped save the man from further injury.



Odell, Tucker, Godbey

### Samaritan & Appreciation Group Award

On March 19, Trooper **Stephen Parker** and Deputy Bryan Loflin discovered an unconscious man in a courthouse hallway. It was later determined that the man had suffered a heart-attack.

Upon the discovery of the man, Parker began CPR on the man while Loflin retrieved a AED (automated external defibrillator). Assisted by Robbie Lowman, a respiratory therapist, the trio continued CPR and used the defibrillator twice before EMS arrived and transported the man to the hospital. He recovered that evening.



Parker, Loflin, Lowman



Valor Award Recipients

### Valor Award

On March 12, members of Troop F Districts 1 and 9, led by 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. **D.B. Amos**, initiated a search and recovery effort for a U.S. Forestry Service ranger and fellow Troop F members who had been shot at by a double-homicide suspect.

During an intense search, the troopers learned that the ranger and his canine partner had been shot and killed. Due to the gravity of the situation and not knowing the suspect's exact location, Amos and his search team used their active-shooter training to tactically withdraw from the woods. During the exit, they found the suspect, who refused to comply with instructions and fired his weapon. The troopers returned fire, killing the suspect.

The troopers displayed courage, personal bravery and selfless acts of heroism, risking their lives to apprehend a dangerous suspect and prevent further injury and loss of life. In addition to Amos, the troopers were Sgt. **Mark L. Cline** and Troopers **Carroll R. Hallyburton**, **Aaron K. Johnson**, **Russell V. McGee III**, **Kyle B. Robinson**, **Joshua L. Shuffler** and **Daniel J. Wakefield**.

### Purple Heart Award

On Feb. 18, 2013, Trooper **Michael Potts** was shot several times near US 70 in Durham after stopping a driver who was not wearing his seat belt.

Despite his injuries, Potts was able to maintain consciousness enough to radio for assistance and provide information necessary for other units to respond.

Potts has since gone through several surgeries and has attended many physical therapy sessions. While this shooting has affected his body, it has not affected his resolve, and Potts successfully returned to work.



Potts

# IT quickly moves systems after massive roof leak

RALEIGH | Water poured through the roof of the Front Street offices of the Governor's Crime Commission during a heavy mid-May rain storm, drenching office furniture and equipment and disrupting network and electrical infrastructure.

However, in a matter of days, employees, work stations and phone networks were re-established and operations were back up and running, albeit from temporary locations.

Two Information Technology staff members were at the site during the storms, providing realtime information to IT and departmental senior management.

"The leaks caused severe damage to the main computer room on the second floor, and the first floor computer room experienced water exposure as well, but not as significantly," said **Glenn Mack**, deputy chief information officer.

Mack and **Bob Brinson**, chief information officer, were at the offices before 7 a.m. May 16.

"It became quite obvious that the building had suffered some intense and major water damage," Mack said. "We had equipment that was permanently lost, and knew we would have to salvage any remaining equipment that wasn't damaged."

IT activated its Continuity of Operations Plan, sending several IT technicians to the site that morning.

"They were grabbing and tagging all of the PCs, telephones and printers from the offices as management decided where

these people would be relocated," Mack said.

"We've estimated in excess of \$75,000 in technical equipment damage, and the amount is expected to increase as we determine the full extent of the damage."

Approximately 40 department employees were displaced, with 11 sent to 2020 Yonkers Road and the remaining staff were relocated to the Hammond Road complex.

The IT staff worked throughout the weekend to ensure affected DPS staff would be ready on Monday, May 18, for the DPS IT staff to begin relocating and reconnecting the displaced users with their PCs and telephones. The efforts included rerouting the network and telephones, ensuring that the applications worked as expected and moving all of the PCs to the new locations.

"It was a tremendous effort by the staff," Mack said.

**Ron Moore, Geof Toner and Ed Myers** were cited for their diligence in responding to the emergency.

"And adding to the challenges was a flat tire on one of the IT vans used for moving all the equipment," Mack said. "Thanks to **Jason Myers** for a 'NASCAR-esque' changeout."

Other IT employees involved in the response were managers **Linda DeJesus-Bogan** and **Al Evans** and technicians **Hampton Carswell, Chris Fuquay, Kyle James and Josh Rotenberry**.

"They all did a great job to respond to this incident," said Chief Operating Officer **Lorrie Dollar**. "We have the best employees!" ▴

Upper right, network technicians **Jason Myers**, left, and **Josh Rotenberry** carry computer equipment out of the soaked Front Street building occupied by the Governor's Crime Commission. Lower, **Andy West**, PC technician, and **John Hampton Carswell**, network technician, gather computer and phone equipment for transfer to temporary offices.

Photos by Keith Acree, communications officer.



# Three complete first stage of Harnett Veterans Treatment Court

## ***Program funded by grant from Crime Commission***

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By Chick Jacobs Staff writer  
Fayetteville Observer

LILLINGTON | They stood together, three men from three different military branches, veterans of three different conflicts.

All fighting the same battle.

On Wednesday morning, in a courtroom in the Harnett County Courthouse, the trio celebrated a small victory in a long campaign. They became the first graduates of the first stage of Harnett County's Veterans Treatment Court.

"We come a long way to get to this point," said Mark Teachey, the court coordinator. "It's been generally a positive experience — not always, but generally." The ceremony itself was brief. Several men ranging in age from their mid-20s to past 60 stood before Veterans Court Judge Albert Corbett. Because of confidentiality issues, none can be identified beyond their branch of service and rank. Had they not been included in the state's inaugural veteran's court, all would be looking at jail time for everything from DWI to misdemeanor assault to petty theft to drug abuse.

The veterans work through a series of challenges, dealing with any psychological and social issues along the way - what Teachey called "invisible wounds of combat."

Some have adjusted well, marching through the assignments with ease. Others falter at times, going into what Teachey calls a "holding pattern."

"We never take away the progress made," said Teachey, himself a retired lieutenant colonel. "But they cannot advance until each step is made."

One, a former Army corporal with a service record that included a hitch in Lebanon, was in such a pattern. A relapse into



alcohol led to a DWI and a stint in the county jail.

Like all the others, he stood before the judge, but the only one in an orange jumpsuit.

"Everyone here is trying to help you," Corbett said. "But you've got to help yourself."

The man in orange bowed his head and nodded.

"If you don't help yourself, you're gone," Corbett said. "You know that."

There was hope. After some discussion, he could move to a treatment facility in Virginia. He even got to go home for a haircut and an evening with his family before the trip.

*See Court on page 22*

A veteran salutes Judge Albert Corbett Jr. in Veterans Treatment Court at the Harnett County Courthouse.

*Photo by George Dudley,  
editor.*

## Court from page 21

"You won't see me again, sir," he said to Corbett. "I don't want to go to prison."

Another veteran, a specialist traumatized by the massive death and destruction from the Haiti earthquake, requested removal of his electronic ankle monitor — not because he wanted to get away, but because "summer is here, and I'd like to wear shorts."

Citing his progress in the program, Corbett agreed.

That, Teachey said, is how Veterans Treatment Court is supposed to work. The court is the first of its kind in the state. It defers punishments, such as jail time, for misdemeanors so long as the defendants comply with programs to treat their underlying issues connected to criminal misconduct.

Harnett County received a \$66,000 grant from the Governor's Crime Commission to fund the program. It opened last November. Rather than cast the veterans into a cycle of jail-and-release, intensive counseling, peer-group meetings and strict supervision can steer them from whatever demons followed them home from war.

Some suffer post-traumatic stress disorder from service. Others suffered brain injuries. Some abuse drugs or alcohol to deal with anxiety or become addicted to medication given to ease the pain of battle wounds.

"It's not a cookie cutter program because there are no cookie cutter solutions," Teachey said. "Every veteran is different, and every need is different."

As one group progresses, additional veterans are added. Future numbers may vary, given the uncertain time of graduation or the possibility those in the program may regress.

After graduation, mandatory meetings are fewer for the veterans. Personal accountability is increased.

In time, once three more levels are complete, there will be no more required meetings, no checkups.

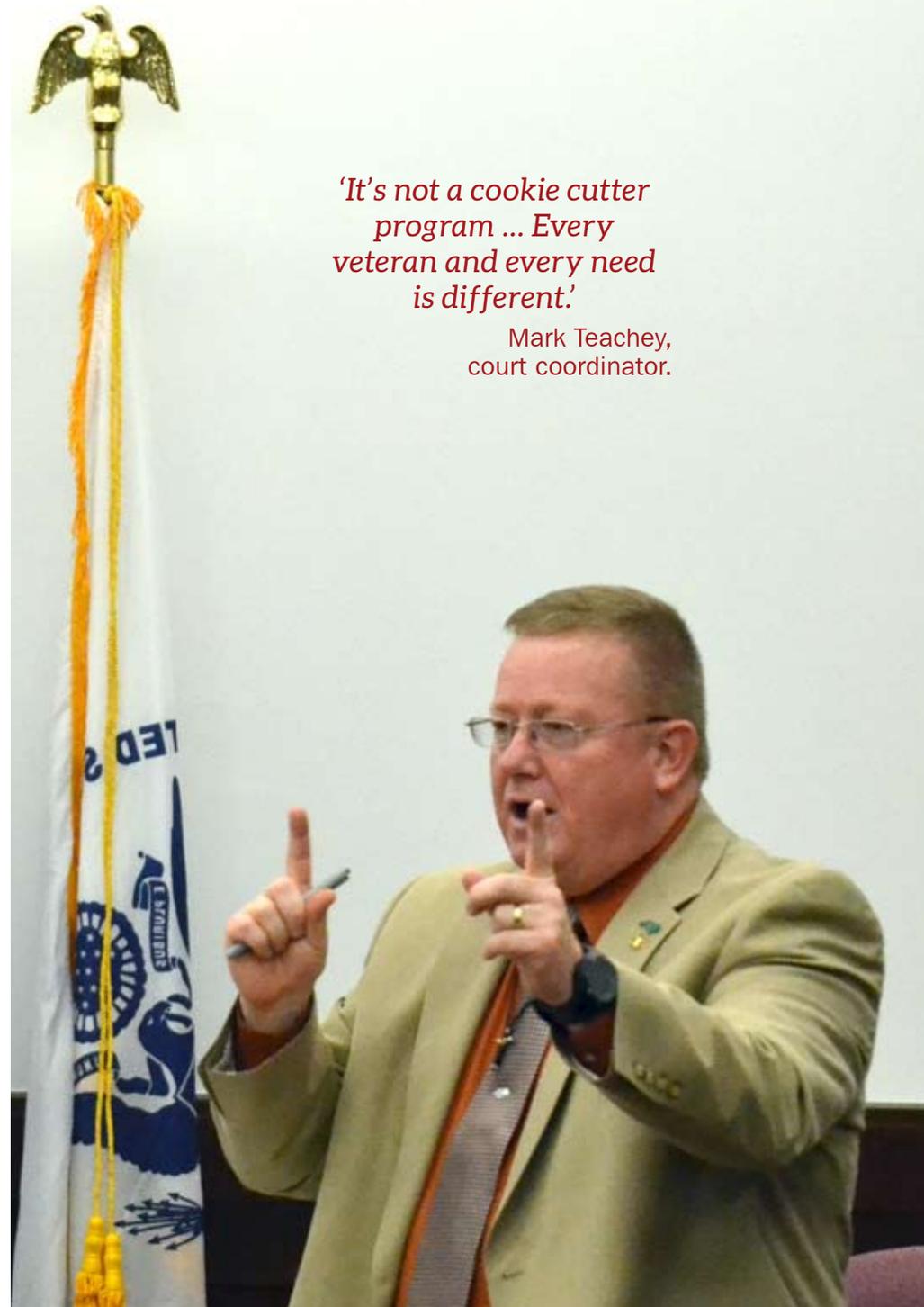
"At that point, we're here if they need help," Teachey said.

For three, the program has been a first step away from destructive behavior. The three — a Ranger squad leader in Vietnam still hobbled by shrapnel, an investigator for the Air Force injured by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad and a Coast Guard PT boat fireman — expressed their thanks to the court.

"This court gave us all the opportunity to face issues that might never have been resolved," the Air Force veteran said. "It gives me support. Talking with the guys gave me a lot more than any counseling session in a back room at the VA.

"We were heroes yesterday. Now we were on a path that was leading to a jail cell. We had people saying, 'It doesn't have to be this way,' then giving me an opportunity to get off that road.

"I'm blessed to be a part of this." ▀



*'It's not a cookie cutter program ... Every veteran and every need is different.'*

Mark Teachey,  
court coordinator.

Graduates from one of the first  
New Leash on Life programs.



# Dog training program marks 10th anniversary

RALEIGH | This month marks 10 years since North Carolina inmates began learning dog training skills and started working with dogs from local animal shelters to make them more adoptable. Since May 2004, when the “New Leash on Life” program launched at Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women, inmates have trained nearly 2,100 dogs with a 92 percent adoption rate for dogs that complete training.

The program has grown to 18 prisons across the state and involves partnerships with dozens of animal welfare agencies and professional animal trainers. The shelters and animal welfare agencies provide their local prison facilities with dogs at risk of going unadopted due to their disposition or behavior.

The inmate trainers work with dogs for 6 to 8 weeks to teach them basic behavior and socialization. The inmates learn their dog training techniques under the guidance of professional dog trainers who volunteer their services to teach the inmates.

“This is a beautiful partnership between North Carolina’s prisons and animal welfare agencies, working together to improve lives,” said First Lady Ann McCrory. “The responsibility, joy, love, and success that result from the trainings and adoptions are a win-win for both the inmates and dogs.”

Since 2007, more than 2,000 inmates have worked as dog trainers and more than 300 inmates have completed an educational program that leads to certification as a veterinary assistant. About 40 inmates are currently pursuing apprenticeships that require 4,000 hours of work and lead to a journeyman certification from the N.C. Department of Labor.

“Of all the rehabilitational programs offered in North Carolina prisons, this is one of the most popular and well loved,” said **W. David Guice**, commissioner of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice. “It provides valuable work and learning experiences for inmates, it helps dogs who might otherwise be euthanized find adoptive homes and the dogs’ presence in the prison environment brings a positive and calming effect.”

Prisons which have a New Leash on Life program are Albemarle Correctional Institution in Badin; Brown Creek CI, Polkton; Caledonia CI, Tillery; Catawba Correctional Center, Newton; Craggy CI, Asheville; Craven CI, Vanceboro; Eastern CI, Maury; Foothills CI, Morganton; Forsyth CC, Winston-Salem; Gaston CC, Dallas; Marion CI, Marion; Mountain View CI, Spruce Pine; Nash CI, Nashville; New Hanover CC, Wilmington; Pender CI, Burgaw; Randolph CC, Asheville; Rutherford CC, Spindale; and Swannanoa CC, Black Mountain. ▴



## National center offers seminar on missing-children incidents

The North Carolina Center for Missing Persons, under the direction of State Highway Patrol, on May 29 sponsored a parental abductions training presented by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

The term "parental abduction" describes the wrongful removal or retention of a child by a parent. Because child kidnappings are frequently committed by other family members, the term "family abduction" is more accurate. Both have civil and criminal meanings.

The event, held in the Joint Forces Headquarters Situation Room, was designed to train the law enforce-

ment community, family law attorneys, district attorneys and clerks of court on some of the critical aspects of parental abductions. The Center assists parents and law enforcement on these cases whether the abduction is in state or out of state.

The training described procedures for handling cases correctly and expediently. The primary training point was to let law enforcement agencies know they have a broader responsibility than the simple act of "retrieval." By responding promptly, professionally and efficiently, law enforcement officers can safely locate these victims.

Speakers included Maureen Heads of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and Ellen Rose, Wake County Family Court administrator. Also speaking was Ed Duhart, father of Jelani Gatson, who was taken by his mother from Guilford County in 2009. Duhart fought for four years to get his son back from Kansas. Jelani was finally located and picked up by the Wyandotte County sheriff in Kansas in 2013 and returned home to live with his father in Charlotte.



Above and right, one of the speakers and some of the attendees at the missing and exploited children seminar in May.

Photos by Tammy Martin.



## Prison staff host Special Olympics

Pamlico Correctional Institution staff assisted and supported Pamlico County Special Olympics on May 24. The custody and programs staff had a fun-filled day with the participants and enjoyed reaching out to the community.

Photo contributed by Pamlico CI staff.



## Kevin Burrell named superintendent at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women

RALEIGH | Kevin Burrell is the new superintendent at Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women in Buncombe County.

Burrell most recently served as assistant superintendent for custody and operations at Swannanoa. He started his corrections career in 1989 as a correctional officer at Craggy Correctional Center in Asheville. He was a captain at Alexander Correctional Institution in Taylorsville before joining Swannanoa as assistant superintendent.

Burrell is a Haywood County native, a Pisgah High School graduate and a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was a criminal justice instructor for more than 15 years.

Swannanoa Correctional Center for Women opened in 2008 when the former Black Mountain Correctional Center for Women relocated to the campus of the former Swannanoa Valley Youth Development Center. It currently houses about 235 female inmates in minimum custody and employs a staff of approximately 125. ▴

## Bar raids net 24

FAYETTEVILLE | Alcohol Law Enforcement officers and Fayetteville police raided multiple bars and served numerous warrants in May in connection with a year-long investigation into possible illegal drug and alcohol activity.

ALE officer **Jason Locklear** said Mickey's was a hot bed for illegal drug activity. Authorities arrested 24 people, including 19 employees, on 262 criminal charges.

"We bought from the manager, we bought from the security guard ... we bought from everyone inside of that place," Locklear told WRAL TV News.

Locklear said other bars are being investigated, too. ▴



## Captain earns leadership honor

WASHINGTON, D.C. | North Carolina National Guard Army Capt. William Dudley was honored with the MacArthur Leadership Award at the Pentagon on May 30. Dudley, of NCNG's 505th Engineer Battalion, was one of 28 officers from active, Guard and reserve units worldwide who earned recognition as the best company grade officers.

"It is truly an honor when you consider who came before; it is very humbling," Dudley said.

The ceremony was hosted by Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno, who gave each recipient a bronze statue of MacArthur and thanked them for leading soldiers under difficult conditions.

"They are going to be leading us for a very long time, and I am very proud of them," Odierno said.

As the battalion's Administrative Officer, Dudley is responsible for the training and readiness of nearly 800 soldiers. Previously, Dudley deployed as the commander of the NCNG's 875th Engineer Company to Kuwait and Afghanistan in 2012-13.

"I had a bunch of good soldiers, platoon leaders and sergeants who made a very challenging mission look easy," he said.

The award was created by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation and the Army to highlight the most effective junior officers in the Army.

Since 1987, only 677 leaders, from many thousands of officers serving, have been chosen for this award.

"To represent the Guard and to learn each others' stories, it was inspiring," Dudley said. ▴

## Twitter Trouble: Cybercrime a fact of life on social media

Spamming and scamming have moved to social media in full force, according to researchers.

Cyber-criminals and spies always shift their focus to platforms of interest, capitalizing on the popularity of an ecosystem. They do this to hunt easy prey and to carry out their elaborate and sophisticated business models.

Even better (from the bad guys' point of view), many consumers are accessing social media from unprotected devices.

Here are some quick tips to help reduce your vulnerability:

▴ Remember, nothing posted on the Internet ever truly disappears. Before creating a social media account, be sure you're ready for the commitment. The same goes

for posts and tweets: be prepared to stand behind your words.

▴ Don't "overshare" by posting information that could help strangers find or harm you. For example, if you brag about a vacation while you're on it, everybody learns that your home is vacant. Also keep in mind that if you post too much information about your family, you may render them vulnerable.

▴ Social engineers love social media because it is built on trust; people are more likely to believe messages that appear to come from friends. If you receive an email, Facebook message, or tweet that appears to come from somebody you know but requests money or personal data, that's a red flag—be very, very skeptical.

## Community Corrections activity report highlights

### District 12

Partnering with the Fayetteville Police Department Gang Task Force, probation/parole officers **Jalisa Speller, Patrick Frye, Donell Trusty** and **Matikia Russell** searched the residence of a known gang leader under supervision. Weapons were found and confiscated, and the offender was arrested.

### District 13

Probation/Parole Officer **Wayne Flowers** of Brunswick County was the first person to arrive at a bad two-car collision. He checked the drivers' conditions and called for assistance through 911. He also helped law enforcement officers direct traffic around the collision scene.

### District 14

Two probation/parole officers in District 14 conducted a warrantless search of a probationer's residence and discovered several firearms, including three rifles and ammunition. The offender, who was on post-release supervision for a felony, was arrested for possession of a firearm by felon.

### District 15

Alamance County Probation/Parole Officer **Lydia Smallwood** has used the community program "Men of Steel" to help an offender make better life decisions. The program is leading the offender to understand that good judgment leads to better results.

Person County probation/parole officers **Geoff Brann** and **Phillip Rose**, assisted by the Person County Sheriff's Office, acted on a tip and conducted a warrantless search on an offender, finding more than 50 grams of marijuana and drug distribution materials. The offender was arrested on felony drug charges.

Acting on a report, Caswell County PPO **Sarah Kylander** found and arrested an active sex offender probationer who was at the Caswell County Public Library in Yanceyville in violation of probation. The offender was using a library computer to view animated pornography. ▴

# P R O M O T I O N S

... in May 2014 unless indicated otherwise

## Administration

*Employee's Name, Job, Organizational Unit*

**Amanda Burgess**, parole case analyst II, Parole Commission  
**Christie Hensley**, parole case analyst I, Parole Commission  
**Annette Jones**, parole case analyst II, Parole Commission  
**Brian Jones**, parole case analyst II, Parole Commission  
**Daniel Sherfy**, facility maintenance manager I,  
Piedmont Region Maintenance Yard

## Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

### ADULT FACILITIES

**James Adams**, sergeant, Albemarle Correctional Institution  
**Tracy Alston**, food service officer, Tillery Correctional Center  
**Richard Barnes**, lead correctional officer, Caswell CC  
**Valeria Barnes**, processing assistant IV, Johnston CI  
**Donna Barringer**, nurse supervisor, Albemarle CI  
**David Berry**, facility maintenance supervisor IV, Hyde CI  
**Lacy Bowman**, assistant unit manager, Albemarle CI  
**Johnathon Bullard**, sergeant, Orange CC  
**Jerry Byrum**, sergeant, Bertie CI  
**Aarrian Dallas**, sergeant, Scotland CI  
**Rhonda Delcour**, diagnostic center director, Neuse CI  
**Gary Duncan**, sergeant, Piedmont CI  
**Beatrice England**, professional nurse, Central Prison Health Complex  
**Bernarda Garza**, lieutenant, Brown Creek CI  
**April Graham**, administrative assistant III, Administration, Data Repair  
**Kimberly Grissom**, programs director I, Hyde CI  
**David Guions**, food service officer, Sampson CI  
**James Hocum**, professional nurse, Maury CI  
**Ted Johnson**, sergeant, Alexander CI  
**Travis Johnson**, training specialist II, Southern CI  
**Franklin Jones**, sergeant, Lanesboro CI  
**Sybil Kearse**, unit manager, Bertie CI  
**Patricia Kelley**, lieutenant, Maury CI  
**Carl Leggett**, sergeant, Pasquotank CI  
**Laron Locklear**, training specialist II, Scotland CI  
**Thomas Martorana**, sergeant, Pamlico CI  
**Norma Melton**, nurse supervisor, Mountain View CI  
**Roger Myers**, sergeant, Caswell CC  
**Myra Northcott**, office assistant IV, Bertie CI  
**Janet Olive**, personnel assistant V, Johnston CI  
**Joseph Parlier**, sergeant, Alexander CI  
**Eric Pierre**, maintenance mechanic IV, Pamlico CI  
**Joshua Saleeby**, nurse supervisor, Franklin CC  
**Sean Simpson**, food service officer, Central Prison

**Willie Smith**, food service manager III, Central Prison  
**William Snead**, sergeant, Davidson CC  
**Emily Sowell**, food service officer, Albemarle CI  
**Edward Thomas**, programs director III, Administration —  
Disciplinary Hearing Office  
**Andy Tripp**, lead correctional officer, Orange CC  
**Phillip Webb**, sergeant, New Hanover CC  
**Darryl West**, substance abuse counselor advanced (COR), NC CI for Women  
**Sherry Willis**, officer, Pender CI  
**Joseph Zecca**, sergeant, Carteret CC

### COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

**John Bringle**, probation/parole officer, District, 19A  
**Heather Brown**, probation/parole officer, District, 25  
**Ashlee Doering**, probation/parole officer, District 08  
**Chad Huffstickler**, chief probation/parole officer, District 29  
**Michelle Keith**, judicial services coordinator, District 25  
**Tyler McGuirt**, probation/parole officer, District 14A  
**Tiffany Nelson**, probation/parole officer, District 29  
**Scott Waligora**, probation/parole officer, District 07B

### CORRECTION ENTERPRISES

**Susan Mitchell**, administrative officer I, Administration

### JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Terry Colaire**, juvenile court counselor, Piedmont Region, District 22  
**Jesse Fields**, housing unit supervisor, Dillon Youth Development Center  
**Timothy Henderson**, juvenile court counselor, Central Region, District 9  
**Keisha Jacobs-Jones**, youth counselor, Chatham YDC  
**Renata Towles**, human services coordinator I,  
Gaston Regional Juvenile Detention Center

## Law Enforcement

### NATIONAL GUARD

**James Upchurch**, environmental senior technician, Environmental  
**Robert Williams**, facility maintenance supervisor I, Facility Management

### STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

**Theresa Burney**, cook supervisor II, Food Service  
**Don Johnson**, mechanic supervisor I, Troop A  
**Glenn McNeill**, major, Training Academy  
**Jeffrey Newell**, mechanic supervisor II, Troop D  
**Jill Turner**, telecommunications center supervisor, Troop H  
**Karen Weatherford**, office assistant IV, Troop H/District 2

# RETIREMENTS

... in May 2014 unless indicated otherwise

## Administration

*Employee's Name, Job, Organizational Unit, Service (y=years, m=months)*

**Joseph Bishop**, electronics technician III, Facility Management —  
Eastern Regional Maintenance Yard, 17y4m

**Wayton Caviness**, maintenance mechanic IV, Facility Management —  
Piedmont Regional Maintenance Yard, 19y8m

**Zeb Heath**, programs director III, Administration —  
Disciplinary Hearing Office, 28y6m

**Deborah Hunter**, administrative assistant III, Combined Records, 31y8m

**Roberta Morgart**, accountant, Controller, 9y6m

## Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

### ADULT FACILITIES

**Lavern Albritton**, officer, Greene Correctional Institution, 23y5m

**Ronald Autry**, captain, Pender CI, 31y5m

**John Bailey**, case manager, Mountain View CI, 23y9m

**Arthur Barrett**, officer, Central Prison, 19y6m

**John Black**, officer, Foothills CI, 8y1m

**Robert Boykins**, lead correctional officer, Lumberton CI, 20y

**Kenneth Core**, psychological services coordinator, Johnston CI, 31y6m

**Judy Crowe**, officer, Caldwell Correctional Center, 7y8m

**Johnsie Duplessis**, licensed practical nurse, Hoke CI, 16y11m

**Debra Efird**, officer, Southern CI, 9y9m

**Deanna Evans**, officer, Hoke CI, 20y

**William Harris**, officer, Franklin CC, 29y7m

**Floyd Hendricks**, officer, Tillery CI, 27y7m

**Robert Holden**, sergeant, NC CI for Women, 19y10m

**Brian Johnson**, sergeant, Lanesboro CI, 7y

**Earl Manley**, food service officer, Caledonia CI, 20y7m

**Elizabeth McCaskill**, professional nurse, Southern CI, 10y2m

**Harry Medlin**, lieutenant, Central Prison, 14y1m

**Freddie Sellers**, officer, Brown Creek CI, 10y1m

**Glenn Spivey**, officer, Nash CI, 25y

**Mickey Stamper**, officer, Southern CI, 30y4m

**Luvenia Starnes**, officer, Orange CC, 29y1m

**Darrell Stevenson**, officer, Alexander CI, 9y6m

**Patricia Whitford**, office assistant III, Pamlico CI, 20y3m

**Philip Wood**, clinical chaplain II, Maury CI, 8y1m

## COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

**Linda Bradley**, substance abuse counselor, Dart Cherry, 19y1m

**Elliott Cordell**, probation/parole officer, District 20, 17y

**William Currin**, probation/parole officer, District 09, 29y

**Michael Dunn**, chief probation/parole officer, District 19B, 29y1m

**Frank Farley**, probation/parole officer, District 26B, 22y3m

**Kenneth Herron**, probation/parole officer, District 15, 20y2m

**Gregory Kearney**, probation/parole officer, District 08, 30y

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Robin Williams**, juvenile court counselor, Central Region, District 9, 29y2m

## Emergency Management

**Jeffery Arndt**, planner II, Information Unit, 30y6m

**Jerry Yount**, community development specialist I,  
Information Planning Section, 14y6m

## Law Enforcement

### STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

**Stephen Briggs**, major, Troop Operations East & MCEA, 27y7m

**Michael Dellinger**, office assistant IV, Troop C/District 7, 2y1m

**Raymond Griffin**, trooper, Troop F/District 5, 29y10m

**Kevin Martin**, lieutenant, Troop B Operations, 19y8m

# PASSINGS

## Adult Correction & Juvenile Justice

### ADULT FACILITIES

**Tiffany Davis**, sergeant, Lanesboro CI, 8y5m

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

**Korie Norwood**, housing unit supervisor, Jackson YDC, 3y