



# The Commissioner's Commentary

SPRING 2009

## Consolidation Yields Savings

The warehouse on 1035 Spruce Street is eerily quiet this March morning as Governor Corzine strides in to announce an unprecedented initiative. The state will be terminating certain leases and vacating rental properties as well as renegotiating leases that will yield an estimated \$12.6 million in savings to New Jersey's taxpayers.

Amid the scores of empty shelves that once stored hundreds of State Museum artifacts and Governor's Office memorabilia, the Governor outlines the process by which the New Jersey Department of Corrections, along with the Department of State and the Department of Personnel, found alternate spaces in buildings already owned by the state.



*Commissioner George Hayman*

***By applying a best practice of consolidation or closing out lease agreements, millions in procurement savings will be***

"We are conducting a thorough review, department by department, to make the most of the state's financial resources," Governor Corzine says. "Just as every New Jersey family must economize during this time of national financial crisis, the state must achieve cost savings in every way possible. This is a perfect example of how, through consolidation and sharing of resources, those savings can be achieved."

Up the stairs from the warehouse, members of NJDOC Custody Recruitment Unit prepare for the move to the grounds of the Developmental Center in New Lisbon in the space previously used for the Stabilization and Reintegration Program.

It is a move that makes sense from every perspective, according to John Cunningham, director of our Office of Training. As we all know, Recruitment is a vital piece of the Corrections' operation. With the move, the unit will have more room to complete its mission, while saving the state much-needed monies. In essence, it creates a win-win situation.

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## **The Commissioner's Commentary**

Additionally, New Lisbon will become our regional in-service training center, enabling us to conduct joint training exercises with other law enforcement agencies. This is a clear example of the Governor's cross-agency approach to finding savings. For the first time in the history of the Garden State, state agencies are working in a systematic, organized manner to share and implement ideas that benefit the entire state budget, and by extension, the taxpayers.

The department's Office of County Services, which also utilized office space at the Spruce Street location, will shift its base of operations to our Central Office headquarters in Trenton.

By applying a best practice of consolidating or closing out lease agreements, millions in procurement savings will be realized in the FY 09 budget and beyond. In these dire financial times, this is welcome news for everyone.



# Winners By a Nose

## Edna Mahan Inmates Train Puppies for Important Life's Work

Among the huge New Jersey contingency at Barack Obama's inauguration were two females who had spent quite a bit of time at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women. Carly and Glow learned their earliest lessons from inmates at the prison and put their training to excellent use as graduates of the Puppies Behind Bars program.

Since 2002, Puppies Behind Bars has been training young dogs for important life's work. No less important is the commitment made by the inmates who care for and train them. Requirements for participation in the program include mandatory attendance at weekly puppy classes and successful completion of reading assignments, homework and exams. Furthermore, the puppy raiser must always put the needs of the puppy before his or her own, must be able to work effectively as a member of a team, and must be able to give and receive criticism in a constructive manner.

Puppy raisers and their dogs, which are eight weeks old when they "come to prison," are housed together in individual cells. The puppies accompany their trainer everywhere. They have regular exercise sessions. And the bond between the two is a strong one.

Although service dogs are sometimes trained at the Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women, the vast preponderance of the pups become Explosive Detection Canines, whose presence can be found throughout law enforcement entities in the United States and with the military abroad, to include Afghanistan and Iraq.



*Puppies Behind Bars has been training young dogs for important life's work since 2002.*

So when the ATF (United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) came looking for Explosive Detection Canines in this post-September 11 world, the women of Edna Mahan and their Puppies Behind Bars coordinators responded.

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## Winners By a Nose

Since the program began in the Clinton prison, 90 dogs have passed through the gates of the facility; to date, 60 inmates have participated.

"This isn't easy," facilitator Jan Brady says. "It's a 24 -hour a day job."

Indeed, as the sun comes up over the rolling hills of Hunterdon County, Lab puppies come bounding out of Cottage A, their trainers laughing, tugging gently on leashes and discussing their charges with one another. Not unlike a cluster of moms bringing their little ones to pre-school, the inmates discuss not toilet training, but paper training, and they exchange stories about their exuberant puppies. Smiles break through on even the most hardened officers walking by at this early hour as they stop and tickle the pups. Early-morning excursions are followed by more walks, simple command training and a final walk at night.

It is impossible to envision these same dogs, two years in the future, working in airports and train stations, checking for bombs in the deserts of Iraq, and yes -- as Carly and Glow have done -- helping to ensure the safety of the most powerful man in the free world.

Perhaps Puppies Behind Bars' President, Gloria Gilbert Stoga put it best. "The inmates," she notes, "have an obligation to do something positive for society."



# King-size Honor

## Faux Cherishes Prestigious Scholarship Award from ACA

When Victoria Faux's supervisor at the Central Reception and Assignment Facility nominated her for the American Correctional Association's prestigious the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award, she was flattered but not exactly enthusiastic. In fact, Faux nearly ignored the application process until the deadline has passed.

"So many people are eligible to apply," she pointed out. "So I thought I'd be wasting my time."

However, Bruce Blumenthal, her supervisor at CRAF, was convinced that Faux's qualifications matched up ideally with the specifications for the scholarship. Blumenthal, a health services manager, kept prodding his assistant, wondering if she had completed the essay and paperwork required of scholarship award applicants.

His primary obstacle, it seemed, was the calendar.

"Finally," Faux related, "Bruce came to me and said, 'Today is the last day. If you don't get your materials in the mail before the end of the day, it will be too late.' So that day, I filled out the form, wrote an essay and got everything off in the mail."

Months later, she heard ... nothing.



*Victoria Faux received a \$2,000 scholarship and a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*

"I'd pretty much forgotten about it," Faux admitted. "In fact, I deleted the essay from my desktop."

Yet, shortly before Christmas, Faux received a telephone call from the ACA informing her that she had been selected as the 2009 recipient of the scholarship that memorializes the legendary civil rights leader.

"I was shocked, but at the same time, I was ecstatic," said Faux, who has been with the New Jersey Department of Corrections since 2003. "To receive an award named for Dr. King is one of the highest honors I can imagine. He is someone who did so much to help others, particularly those who might not have

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## King-size Honor

been able to help themselves. I try to embrace those same qualities, which is why this award means so much to me.”

In 2006, Faux received an associate degree from Mercer County College in applied science, concentrating on criminal justice. From there, she enrolled in Vermont College in a program that allowed her to attend classes for 10 days every six months, which she navigated by using her vacation time from work. She recently received her bachelor’s degree in psychology; her primary academic interest was the link between poverty and delinquency.

Furthermore, since 2004, Faux – whose family includes husband Chris and 27-year-old daughter Nella – has served as a volunteer with Parents Anonymous of New Jersey, through which she helps dysfunctional families resolve their difficulties in a peaceful manner and directs family members to appropriate resources in the community.

“The specs [for the scholarship] are for someone committed to education, someone working toward a degree in the field of criminal justice and, most important, someone who embodies the beliefs of Dr. King in terms of moral principles,” Blumenthal said. “When you consider her work in corrections, her academics and her volunteer work, it’s hard to imagine a stronger candidate.”

The ACA’s Awards Committee agreed, and Faux was honored at the organization’s 2009 Winter Conference in Kissimmee, Fla. The formal presentation was made at a January 12 ceremony held in the Gaylord Palms Hotel.

“Even while I was in Florida, I couldn’t believe the whole thing was happening,” said Faux, who received a \$2,000 scholarship and a bust of Dr. King. “There were more than 3,000 people at the ceremony.

“I’m so grateful that Bruce convinced me to apply for the scholarship, because it turned out to an experience I’ll always remember.”





# President Barack Obama

## NJDOC Staff Members Reflect on Memorable Inaugural Experience

Five days before the 56<sup>th</sup> presidential inauguration, unforgettable news awaited New Jersey Department of Corrections special legal advisor Melinda Haley at her home.

No, the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes prize patrol was not stationed at her front door with balloons, champagne, flowers, rolling cameras and a large check.



*Brigitte Mitchell-Morton (left) and Melinda Haley were among those who attended the inauguration of President Barack Obama.*

For Haley, something else was about to transpire.

"I received good news the Thursday prior to the inauguration," she recalled. "I went home, and there was a message on my machine that there were tickets for me to go to the inauguration."

Haley was about to personally witness history in the making.

Haley would be one of millions of Americans in Washington, D.C., during the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States. She would be present when the first African-American elected to the presidency, the man she had shaken hands with some 10 months earlier on the campaign trail, would officially become president.

Haley did not wait until January 20 to begin her inaugural activities, however.

"I knew that I wanted to be part of the train ride, so we got up early that Saturday morning, went down to the Wilmington train station and waited," she said. "When he came out to speak, it was amazing, because it was more up close and personal. It was the first time I had seen him since his Wilmington visit right before the primary.

"We waited outside for about five hours in the freezing cold," Haley continued. "The high that particular day was 16 degrees. It was sort of our test run before going to D.C. It was some thing that ignited me to be ready to go forward to Tuesday."

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## President Barack Obama



*Special legal advisor Melinda Haley described the inauguration as "surreal."*

On Inauguration Day, Haley and three others – an 11-year-old nephew, and a friend and her friend’s son, also 11 – left home at 2 o’clock in the morning en route to the nation’s capital.

“We drove down to Laurelton, Maryland, and surprisingly there was no traffic,” she said. “We were expecting this big, hard complicated way of getting into the city, but it was pretty much seamless. We got on the Metro and just rode.

“It was five in the morning when we stepped off the Metro into D.C., and there were wall-to-wall people in the station,” Haley continued. “Although it was still dark outside, it seemed like it was the middle of the day.

There were so many people. But it was so orderly. Even though it took a while to get out of the station, there was a happiness to everybody. There was a sense of determination that everybody had.”

From the train station, Haley’s party of four made what she calls a “pilgrimage” to the National Mall. When the gates opened at 8 a.m., they headed toward their appointed silver section, near the Reflecting Pool, and secured their spot.

“In hindsight, we were really close, but we did not feel that way at the time,” Haley said. “We were part of this enormous crowd that was eclectic in every way. The one thing we were most in unison about was him. That was the only thing that everybody was together on, celebrating him.”



*Assistant Commissioner Brigitte Mitchell-Morton (left) was joined by close friend Angela Robertson at the inauguration.*

Surprisingly, in the midst of millions of people, Haley ran into two friends after arriving in her section. And so began the three-and-a-half hour wait, as the newly formed group of six stood in the freezing cold.

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## President Barack Obama

Haley was not the only person from the NJDOC in the massive crowd that eventful day. Among others from the department was Assistant Commissioner Brigitte Mitchell-Morton of the Division of Programs and Community Services.

"The experience was one of the most awesome of my life," Mitchell-Morton reflected. "There was this feeling of excitement in the air that was palpable."

Shortly after noon, the moment that Haley, Mitchell-Morton and the multitude had been waiting for finally arrived.

"When he came out, it was amazing," Haley said. "It was indescribable. Even though we were nowhere near him, and we were watching him on the screen, my whole body was just filled with nerve endings. You can't believe you're here and this is happening. I always think people overuse the word surreal, but that's what it was. You just stared, and you could feel the tear. It took me back to watching when he won the election. You couldn't even really celebrate. You're just like, 'Oh my God. This has happened. This man is really the president.'

"Watching him walk down with the look on his face demonstrated so much humility to me," she continued. "He looked so humble, but yet so determined. It didn't look like a victory march. He looked so presidential. I felt humbled."

Mitchell-Morton was also captivated by the moment.

"That [approximately] two million people were there to observe this incredible change and, most importantly, experience history is something that I shall never forget," Mitchell-Morton said. "I heard conversations of older participants referencing to the civil rights movement and how they thought this day would never come. It was so rewarding seeing all of the younger participants shouting the President's name, 'Obama' and 'yes we can.' As young as some of them were, I truly felt that they were able to grasp the magnitude of what they were experiencing."



# Pay It Forward

## Book Makes Difference in Lives of Children

Bob Salomon is a man who wears many different hats – husband, father, little league baseball coach, children's book consultant and senior correction officer, to name a few.

Because of his numerous responsibilities, rarely does the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center officer, a 20-year veteran of the New Jersey Department of Corrections, sit long enough for the grass to grow under his feet.

In the fall of 2007, Salomon began a venture that has evolved into a "pay it forward" movement of sorts.

Salomon, a little league baseball coach for five years, was invited to collaborate on an inspiring children's book with a powerful message.

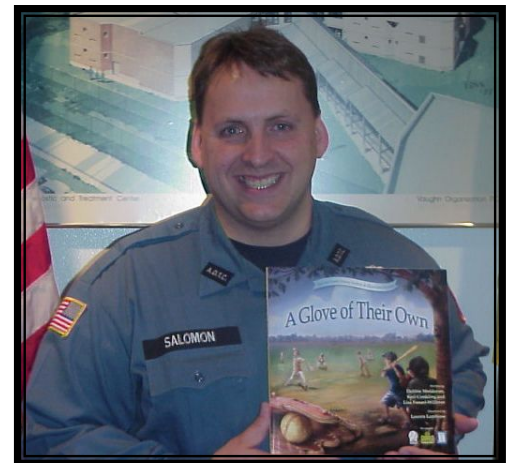
"A Glove of Their Own" tells the story of youngsters who creatively discover a way of playing the game of baseball without the benefit of adequate baseball equipment. The children learn the value of giving to others after receiving used equipment from an anonymous benefactor.

Salomon was the driving force behind the book being published.

"The story is an awesome life lesson for children and adults," he said. "It reminds people that there are children who don't have and encourages people to help others."

Salomon has worked tirelessly to promote the book both prior to and since its October 2008 release. He has appeared on television and talk-radio programs and has been interviewed for numerous newspaper articles.

Almost immediately after becoming involved with "A Glove of Their Own," Salomon, once a little leaguer himself, was moved to take the project to another level. He began a campaign to provide children in need with sporting equipment.



*Bob Salomon proudly displays "A Glove of Their Own," a children's book on which he collaborated and has worked tirelessly to promote.*

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## Pay It Forward

A portion of the book's proceeds is donated to a network of non-profit organizations that provides much-needed sporting equipment to underprivileged children across the country.

"Sadly, many kids today either don't have sporting equipment or the quality of the equipment they do have is extremely poor," said Salomon. "By contributing to kids without adequate equipment, people are helping to meet a need, and in the process, they are giving back."

To assist with the promotion of "A Glove of Their Own" mission, a number of current and former Major League players, including Tommy John, Jason Grilli, Craig Biggio and Sean Casey, were recruited by Salomon and have volunteered their time and talents.

"The book is about giving," reflected Salomon. "It's about thinking of others. Many people take things for granted, but I don't. Our world would be a better place if everyone gave back in some way. To give back changes you forever.

"How awesome for my children to see me creating awareness to help other children," Salomon continued. "This is a lesson they will carry forever. I am doing this to teach my children about the importance of responding to those in need."



# Inside View

## In 1961, as in 2009, Americans Were Brimming with Hope

By Deirdre Fedkenheuer

As millions of citizens across the nation gathered in living rooms and auditoriums and, indeed, in the mall at Washington, D.C., this past January 20, the air of excitement, anticipation and optimism was palpable. Despite the floundering economy and a war that has claimed more than 4,000 American lives, there was an unmistakable joy as this youthful, energetic African-American man was sworn into office.

The refrain was heard throughout America: "There's one of us in the White House!"

Being a child of the 1960s, I'm very familiar with that sentiment, and as my children -- one of whom volunteered her time to Obama's campaign -- and family watched the inauguration, I hearkened back to another cold, windy January 20, when a different youthful, energetic man took the oath of office in 1961. Like Barack Obama, John Kennedy, the second-youngest man ever to become President, was faced with Herculean challenges. Russian nuclear warheads were on their way to Cuba, to be aimed at the United States mainland, the tiny country of Vietnam was mentioned frequently, the Cold War was in full swing, and civil rights, segregation and voting rights topped the Presidential agenda.

But in 1961, as in 2009, Americans were hopeful -- in spite of foreign and domestic problems -- as the first Roman Catholic President was elected. And just as my children and their friends crowded around the plasma TV to watch history, so too did my classmates and I watch a flickering black-and-white Crosley television, complete with bunny ears, in our third-grade classroom in St. Catherine's Grammar School.

***As my children -- one of whom volunteered her time to Obama's campaign -- and family watched the inauguration, I hearkened back to another cold, windy January 20, when a different youthful, energetic man took the oath of office in 1961.***

Times have changed dramatically in 48 years, but people don't. Religion, always a divisive subject, proved to be a political minefield during the 2008 campaign, as

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## Inside View

Obama's foes took issue with the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, his pastor, and the reverend's fiery sermons. Similarly, Kennedy's faith elicited serious inquiries about the electability of a Catholic candidate, particularly in the Bible Belt South. Questions were raised about Kennedy's ability to place national interests above the wishes of his Pope -- questions Kennedy answered time and time again as he emphasized his belief in the absolute separation of church and state.

Inspiring, too, were the comments of the older African-American folks who watched Barack Obama take the oath of office. One woman who had lived through the Jim Crow era, burning crosses, ferocious police dogs and lynchings declared, "I helped put him there!"

My own grandmother had recounted an immigrant's tale of discrimination, signs in store windows stating "no dogs or Irish allowed," and in particular, fear and distrust of Roman Catholics to the point of firebombing their churches -- not in the rural south, but in urban New Jersey. Her words on January 20, 1961? "Oh, yes, now we have the White House!"

The indisputable strength of the United States is the diversity and resilience of her citizens. On January 20, 2009, a new era began, and all of us -- young and old, regardless of our race, religion or country of origin -- were witnesses to history. 

*Deirdre Fedkenheuer is coordinator of media affairs for the New Jersey Department of Corrections.*



# Princeton Meets Garden State

## Cornel West Celebrates Black History Month with NJDOC

Socrates, Jesus and Mohammed all wrestled with a negative self, so that love could emerge.

So said Dr. Cornel West, renowned civil rights activist, scholar and Princeton University professor, at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility.

"You must have the courage to confront yourself, in whatever context you find yourself, in order to find who you are," related West, whose appearance at the youth facility on February 9 had been arranged by Princeton University students who serve as volunteers at the institution.

"Love is a force in your life, and education is a way of using love," West told the audience of 250. "Education, at its deepest level, has to do with investing mind, body and soul."

In addition to several selections rendered by the Garden State Ensemble, the program included the announcement of the 2009 winners of Garden State's annual Black History Month art and poetry contest by art teacher Deardra Thompson.

To West's pleasant surprise, the winning poetry entry was titled "Hope on a Tightrope," the name of the Princeton scholar's latest book. West listened closely as the first-place recipient recited his award-winning poem.

When West, an influential force in philosophy, religion, black theology, African-American studies, race and politics, took the podium, the assembly of staff, inmates and guests centered its attention on his message of self-awareness.

"There is a negative self inside of you that needs to die in order for your better self



*Dr. Cornel West addresses an audience at Garden State Youth Correctional Facility.*

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## Princeton Meets Garden State

to emerge, so that love, self-respect and self-confidence can come forth," related West, a Princeton University graduate and the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees. "I have hope that your better self will emerge.

"Being a star at the deepest level means knowing who you are," added West, the author of 19 books. "Caring and nurturing is what it means to be a star. Greatness has to do with your quality of service to others, your willingness to sacrifice for others."

According to Willis Morton, Garden State administrator, West's words struck a chord with many.

"Everybody I've talked to, from the staff and the inmate population, has given positive feedback," Morton said. "They said his message was powerful.

"I hope the inmates become more aware of themselves and more aware that they can be more than they are," Morton continued, reflecting on West's thought-provoking message. "It's up to them to excel in life. That's what Dr. West pointed out to them. You can be better than you are. I hope what they took away is that people have faced adversity before them and overcome it, and they can do the same."

Dorothy Masciotti, Garden State's supervisor of education, agreed.

"They're in prison, but that's not the end," she said. "They have a choice, but they have to make it themselves."

At the end of the program, West was presented with two hand-drawn portraits of himself, courtesy of a Garden State art student.

The event concluded with West personally greeting every inmate in attendance, and later spending time with staff and guests, before returning to Princeton.

"The staff loved him, and the students loved him," Masciotti said. "He impressed everyone. He was extremely gracious. Also, I think Dr. West enjoyed the program just as much as everybody else."



# Go Fish

## CRAF Employee Hopes to Make Waves with Surf Rocket

The idea for Ken Jelnicky's invention, which he believes has the potential to revolutionize the fishing industry, was triggered by a broken potato gun.

Seriously.

"One day, I was helping a friend move, and we found an old potato gun, which didn't even work," said Jelnicky, an electrician at the Central Reception and Assignment Facility for the past eight years.

"Anyway," he continued, "when I looked at that potato gun, something just clicked."

That click evolved into the Surf Rocket, a specially designed air casting cannon that enables fishermen to cast their bait a mind-boggling 900 feet off the beach.

"Needless to say," Jelnicky offered, "that's never been done before."

An avid fisherman, Jelnicky had spent years trying to figure out a way to cast out beyond the breakers while fishing on a beach. He's tried everything from modified slingshots to kites, but he never was able to solve the dilemma. That's why he's so excited about the Surf Rocket.

Unlike a potato gun, which generally uses hairspray for launches, the Surf Rocket is filled with compressed air. The concept is simple; everything is frozen in a mold – bait, hooks, sinker line – leaving just a swivel hanging from the mold. The frozen mold is brought



*Ken Jelnicky displays the Surf Rocket.*

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## Go Fish

to the beach in a cooler and attached to the fishing line. The frozen mold is placed in the Surf Rocket, which is filled with compressed air and launched.

To the uninitiated, it appears as if the bait has been fired from a cannon, well beyond the sand bar, into territory previously reserved for those fishing from boats. Yet, this "cannon" weighs just seven pounds, has a chamber that is four inches in diameter and is collapsible for easy storage.

"I remember trying it for the first time, about two years ago," Jelnicky said. "I was in Jackson, in front of about 15 people, most of whom were laughing at me. But as soon as they saw it work, they stopped laughing pretty quickly.

"After that, I started using it on the beach as often as I could. The pattern would always be the same. I'd be using it, and next thing I knew, there would be 50 people surrounding me, watching me fish."

Jelnicky eventually forged a partnership with a friend – a successful businessman – and the two focused obtaining a patent and marketing their product. What followed was an array of trade shows and other events, magazine articles, an advertising blitz and the establishment of a Web site ([www.surfrocketfishing.com](http://www.surfrocketfishing.com)).

"Our first show was in Harrisburg, Pa.," he related. "We had 45 surf rockets there, and we ended up selling all of them. Since then, we've made sales all across the United States and beyond, in places like Australia, Africa and England. We expected to sell maybe 25 our first year, but we sold more than 100.

"Right now, we're in about 15 stores in different parts of the world, but they're mostly mom-and-pop shops. The thing is, we've had interest from national chains, so the future is looking bright."

Jelnicky nearly had a deal in place with boating and fishing industry giant West Marine to purchase 7,500 Surf Rockets, but the deal was never closed due to the severe economic downturn. However, West Marine, which operates nearly 400 stores, assured Jelnicky that the deal can be re-visited once the economy begins to rebound.

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## Go Fish

A company that produces infomercials was intrigued by the product, but they asked that Jelnicky lower the price, which is \$500. He politely declined.

"The price is what it is," said Jelnicky, whose Web site is visited an average of 3,500 times each week. "It's expensive to make. They wanted me to make a cheaper version of the Surf Rocket, but I don't want to attach my name to an inferior product that might not work the way it's supposed to work."

Even as he builds the Surf Rocket business, Jelnicky is in the process of developing a new product that should hit the market this summer: a safety line whose technology is similar to that of the Surf Rocket. The line can be used to launch a high-visibility floating rope that has a compressed life jacket attached to it. It can be shot more than 700 feet, and when the life jacket hits the water, it expands. Jelnicky is certain that the product can be an invaluable tool for lifeguards on beaches or for the Coast Guard when assisting boaters in distress.

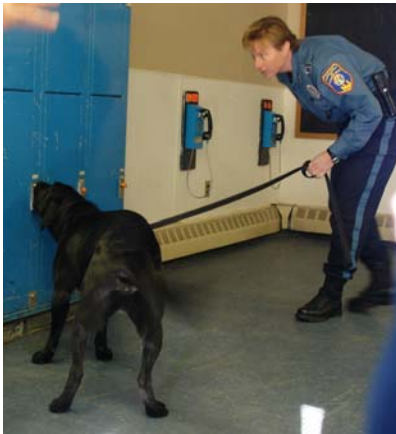
"I've always been one to take things apart and put them back together, to try to find better ways to do things," Jelnicky said. "I've always had my hand in something. It's exciting to see one of your ideas take off. What strikes me is that sometimes you find success with the simplest idea that, for whatever reason, has been overlooked."





# Working Like a Dog

## These Canines Have a Nose for Cell Phones



*Senior Correction Officer Kelly Smith and her canine, Token, search for a cell phone.*

It was a frigid winter morning, and members of the New Jersey Department of Corrections' Canine Unit, departmental officials, and men and women from both the print and electronic media gathered for a demonstration of the newest tools designed to make state prisons more secure. On that day, dogs trained to detect cell phones held a coming out party of sorts at Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility.

Canines have long been used by law-enforcement agencies to detect contraband – including weapons and drugs – but the NJDOC is among the first correctional agencies to utilize dogs to root out cell phones in prisons.

"Nationally, there is a problem with cell phones being introduced into prisons," NJDOC Commissioner George Hayman pointed out. "The unsupervised use of cell phones potentially provides inmates with the ability to orchestrate criminal activity, monitor staff movements and perhaps even plan and coordinate escapes. Clearly, these possibilities present a clear and present danger to prison staff and the public alike."

Despite the criminal implications, as well the installation of Live Scan machines at the doors of NJDOC facilities, cell phones still find their way into the prisons. For that reason, at Commissioner Hayman's suggestion, Canine Unit officers were dispatched to Virginia to observe the cell phone detection dogs and assess the feasibility of training the dogs themselves, since the agency providing training would charge in excess of \$21,000. Accordingly, members of the department's Canine Unit trained four dogs, at no cost to the state, to locate cell phones that have been smuggled into NJDOC facilities.

In the summer of 2008, the officers began training the dogs for eight to 10 weeks. The dogs were put into service in NJDOC prisons in mid-October. Shortly thereafter, they demonstrated their capabilities in front of the press corps and others at Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility.

"There's a distinct signature (scent)," Sgt. William Crampton of the Canine Unit told those

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## Working Like A Dog

who attended the demonstration. He noted that the dogs can detect the scent of cell phones even when the phones are off and haven't been turned on for extended periods.

Illustrating Crampton's point at the demonstration were fellow Canine Unit officers Kelly Smith, Joe Nicholas, Juan Castano and Don Mitchell, along with four-legged detectives Bosco, Token and Charlie. Illness prevented a fourth canine from participating.

"Not only are we finding phones, we're finding earpieces, batteries and cell phone components," the sergeant added, moments before Officer Nicholas and Charlie located a cell phone hidden inside a partially hollowed-out book.

According to Crampton, the NJDOC has been contacted by other states interested in utilizing canines to sniff out cell phones.

"Along with Virginia and Maryland, we're at the forefront of what is proving to be a successful program," he concluded. "Of course, we'll continue to move forward, but I think it's a great deterrent right now."

