

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
April 15, 2010
Glennville, Georgia

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tommy Rouse, Secretary
Mr. Bill Acuff
Mr. Wayne Dasher
Mr. Carl Franklin
Mr. Robert E. Jones
Sheriff Cecil Nobles
Chief George Potter
Mr. Kevin Tanner
Mr. Roger Waldrop
Mr. Justin Wiedeman
Ms. Rose Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Larry Wynn
Mr. Jim Whitehead, Sr.
Mr. Bruce Hudson
Mr. John Mayes
Sheriff Roger Garrison
Sheriff Carlton Powell

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Mr. Joe Drolet, Senior Assistant Attorney General

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Commissioner Brian Owens
Ms. Laura Jones, Board Liaison
Mr. Randy Tillman, Field Operations Manager
Warden Don Jarriel, Georgia State Prison
Warden Dannie Thompson, Smith State Prison
Mr. Bob Plemons
Mr. Tim Ward, Director of Facilities Operations
Mr. George Smith, Deputy Director of Facilities Operations
Ms. Jamie Anderson
Mr. Cedric Taylor, Manager of Special Operations

VISITORS:

Members, Board of Public Safety
Colonel Bill Hitchens
Director Dale Mann
Deputy Director Dan Kirk
Georgia State Patrol staff

Mayor Jean Bridges, City of Glennville
Ms. Pam Waters, *Glennville Sentinel*
Ms. Faye Hussey, Tattnall County Manager
Sheriff Quentin Rush, Tattnall County Sheriff
Police Chief Mickey Anderson

This Board meeting, being a Joint Board Meeting with the Board of Public Safety, was called to order by Mr. Wayne Abernathy. Mr. Abernathy, a member of the Board of Public Safety, began the meeting with calling on Dr. Rick Cason to bring the invocation and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wayne Dasher then stood to introduce the hosts and visitors from the Glennville area. Mr. Dasher started with thanking the group of people who have been working diligently since Wednesday afternoon to decorate and set up the place for this meeting. Everyone applauded their appreciation for the group. Mr. Dasher stated that when you have a team, the team can make things look good. Not only did this team do well today, but there is a team out at the pond house to prepare for tonight's Law Enforcement Cookout. There is no way it could be done without a team; it takes a team in a prison and in the law enforcement arena to do the same thing. Mr. Wayne Dasher recognized the local folks for being at this meeting today. Mr. Dasher introduced Sheriff Quentin Rush, Police Chief Mickey Anderson, and Mayor Jean Bridges. Mr. Dasher stated that Mayor Bridges, along with the City and County Commissioners, proclaimed today the Law Enforcement First Responders Day. Mayor Bridges stood and welcomed everyone and for holding the Board meeting in Glennville. She stated it is good for folks to visit the town. Mr. Dasher introduced County Manager Faye Hussey. Also, Commissioner Daniel Shuman and Chairman Murphy were introduced; in addition to Glennville Sentinel Editor Pam Waters.

Mr. Wayne Abernathy then proceeded to chair the Board of Public Safety. After completion of the Board of Public Safety, the Board of Corrections began.

Mr. Tommy Rouse, Secretary of the Board of Corrections, called to order the April meeting of the Board of Corrections. Mr. Rouse stated both Chairman and Vice Chairman were unable to attend today.

Mr. Rouse stated the Board wanted to thank Mr. Randy Tillman, Warden Don Jarriel and many folks who worked hard to make this meeting happen. Mr. Rouse then introduced the members of the Board of Corrections.

Mr. Tommy Rouse then requested Commissioner Owens and Mr. Randy Tillman to come forward to recognize Correctional Officers. Mr. Rouse read the Governor's Proclamation honoring Correctional Officers Week, which will be held May 3 – 7, 2010. Mr. Tillman introduced Officer Tyler Mosley, Officer Treanna Hankerson, and Officer Bernard Joiner.

Mr. Rouse then requested to honor Correctional Nurses. Mr. Rouse read Governor's Proclamation honoring Correctional Nurses Week, which will be held May 6 - 12, 2010. Mr. Tillman introduced Ms. Pamela Ward, Ms. Cordia Smith, and Ms. Jeanette Lewis.

Mr. Tommy Rouse called for approval of the Minutes from the March Board meeting. Chief George Potter motioned approval, which was seconded by Mr. Rob Jones, and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Rouse stated it is recommended that the May Board meeting be held by conference on the computer. Mr. Rob Jones made the motion to hold the meeting via conference call, which was seconded by Mr. Wayne Dasher, and voted approval by the Board members.

Mr. Tommy Rouse then called on Commissioner Brian Owens for the Commissioner's Report. With a powerpoint slide, Commissioner Owens stated he would report on the Jail Backlog, Upcoming Events, and status of military personnel.

With the slide showing Upcoming Events, Commissioner invited the Board members to attend the Employee Annual Awards Ceremony.

Commissioner Owens explained the next powerpoint slide is presented for Sheriffs, who want to know how many inmates belong to the state and what the backlog is in the 145 county jails. Commissioner stated the total backlog is 3,455; of those 2,511 are state inmates and about 944 are probationers; sitting right at the 3,400 mark. Commissioner Owens stated the number has been steady about four months.

With the slide of Operational Update, Commissioner Owens read a newspaper article. He explained that the law enforcement community is unique, wherein many serve and represent the military in the Guard and Reserve. Commissioner Owens stated those who lead law enforcement agencies are hit pretty heavily. Commissioner Owens read the article about the 48th Brigade returning from Afghanistan. He stated the reason it is important is that the Department of Corrections had activated in Afghanistan over 200 employees serving their nation. Commissioner Owens publicly thanked Board of Corrections for their support in sending letters and boxes of items to men and women who were overseas. It looks like the Department will get

back home with no losses. With the first deployment several years ago to Iraq, the Department lost one member.

Commissioner Owens reported the status of legislation. He explained that members of the Board of Corrections are familiar with House Bill 1030, which was Governor's legislation to merge probation operations and parole operations. That bill did not pass the House and will not be brought back up again this year. Commissioner Owens reported on the budget with stating, from his perspective, that as Mr. Dan Kirk, Colonel Hitchens, Director Mann said it well, the mission is getting done regardless of reductions. It just takes a little more work and little more cooperative spirit. The Department of Corrections' reduction for FY 11, as of today, is \$119 million. That will take this 13,000-person organization, responsible for 60,000 inmates and 150,000 probationers, down to \$1.1 billion. Commissioner Owens stated the Department will get the mission done regardless of the reductions by the General Assembly.

Under the Commissioner's Report slide, Commissioner Owens stated he will call on Mr. Cedric Taylor, Manager of Special Operations Unit, for a presentation. Commissioner stated that Mr. Taylor had been on the National Geographic series "Hard Time," a five-part series done while Mr. Taylor was a Deputy Warden at Hays State Prison. Commissioner Owens explained that Mr. Taylor will give a brief on Special Operations capabilities and then a demonstration outside, showing the capabilities by a tactical squad.

Commissioner Owens announced that when the outside demonstration is completed, there will be tours available at Georgia State Prison, the farming operations at Rogers State Prison, and the Sign Plant at Smith State Prison.

Mr. Cedric Taylor introduced himself, stating he appreciated the opportunity to stand before the Board to talk about what Special Operations is doing.

Mr. Taylor began with telling about performing the first annual Commissioner's Challenge. Several Special Operations teams came together to do a written test, a firing range, and a physical fitness test. From that, scores were compiled and ranked. The top teams came back together at the prison grounds at Jackson. Those top teams competed on an obstacle course, firing range, had a tug-of-war competition at the end; all being a great event for the Department. Mr. Taylor stated the morale and motivation for the Department is as high as it has ever been.

With a powerpoint presentation, Mr. Taylor stated that Special Operations likes to say that excellence is never an accident; it is the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, skillful execution, and the vision to see obstacles as opportunities.

With the next slide, Mr. Taylor showed an organizational chart, wherein it shows the Commissioner, Mr. Schofield as Assistant Commissioner, and from there shows three Division Directors. Mr. Taylor stated that his section falls under Mr. Michael Nail, Director of

Corrections Division. Mr. Taylor works closely with the Facilities Operations and the Probation Operations. Special Operations unit is a support unit for Facilities and Probation operations.

With the next powerpoint slide, Mr. Taylor stated it breaks down to show how Special Operations is spread out around the state. Of the Tactical Squads, there are 23 teams; under CERT Facility Operations there are 27 teams; under Probation Operations there are 5 teams; there are 16 Canine Handlers; and there are Hostage Negotiations teams from three different regions. Mr. Taylor stated that totals right at about 540 personnel that, within a two-hour period of time in the event anything happens, will be on the ground ready to work.

The next slide showed pictures of the Americus tornado incident a few years ago, wherein the Georgia Department of Corrections sent the Special Operations teams. The teams took that opportunity to help secure that community, which allowed local police and law enforcement to do what they needed to do. Within a couple of hours, there were people on the ground working 12-hour shifts. The Special Operations teams secured the areas close to the hospital to insure there was no looting at stores. Mr. Taylor says that the hospital has now been rebuilt.

Mr. Taylor, with the next slide, continued describing that there were 17 Tactical Squads within a 16-day period, to meet all basic needs in Americus. With their mobile command and camp, Special Operations had everything it required while providing security for the local community.

Mr. Taylor stated that a tactical squad is prepared today to demonstrate a riot control, using a mannequin. Today, the demonstration will show entry/takedown procedures; show riot control; show precision marching; show escort of mass movement especially when dealing with people at shakedowns.

Another thing that Special Operations does is unannounced controlled shakedowns. Routinely, Mr. Taylor looks at a COMSTAT report which shows what is going on inside a facility. This gives a target of what areas the squads need to identify and then do a controlled shakedown. When a shakedown is conducted, the squads go in to detect contraband and prevent escapes and other disturbances. With the next slide, Mr. Taylor stated this is a picture showing some things found at shakedowns. Another picture shows a Facility Operations CERT team, which does specialized procedures, such as escorting high profile offenders.

Mr. Taylor explained there are CERT teams from Probation Operations. Probation officers have been taken and placed into five teams in each region of the state. These teams are trained in riot controls, civil disturbances, and undertake high risk missions. When an Execution is scheduled, Probation CERT teams secure the perimeter of Georgia Diagnostic Classification prison on the day of the execution.

Special Operations has Canine units. There are 16 units around the state; these are a day-to-day operation and are on call. Mr. Taylor reported that in the last month, these units have prevented

at least a 1 ½ pound of marijuana from going inside prisons. These are regular routine shakedowns in searching people.

Mr. Taylor stated that another operation is Hostage Negotiations. There are teams throughout the state. These guys come from facilities mainly with the Care and Treatment background, after having gone through a lot of training; giving an opportunity to get people out safely if there is a crisis situation presented inside the facilities.

Mr. Taylor invited everyone to come outside for demonstration. He explained there will be three Tactical Squads; pulling guys from the institutions of Smith State Prison, Dodge State Prison, and Telfair State Prison tactical squads. There will be two Canine handlers, which will demonstrate drug searches. There will be demonstrations to show a mobile field force; demonstration of what is done in mass crowds; a team will use exothermic cutting torch and cut through steel to show ability to get into a barricaded cell or any type steel structure; and then a demonstration of a takedown.

Commissioner Owens completed the presentation in stating that those capabilities are typically what the public does not see. Such as with the Americus incident, it involved State Patrol and many other law enforcement agencies. With the incredible job of the agencies, it allowed Americus to stand back up. Commissioner Owens offered Canine resources, the tactical squad resources, to law enforcement partners at today's meeting.

Mr. Randy Tillman offered details about the tours. There being no further business, the meeting was then adjourned.

Larry Wynn, Chairman

Laura Jones, Board Liaison