

# Hotline

## DOC SUPPORTS THE TROOPS

Commissioner Tom Roy and three Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Red Wing supervisors flew to the Camp Ripley Training Center on May 10, as part of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Boss Lift Program. More than 25 employers participated in the day-long program, which aims to give employers an understanding of what service-member employees experience in the National Guard and Reserve. Accompanying Roy were, Lieutenant Anita Kendall, Lieutenant Tom Pasch and Chief Cook Julie Sanders. The group flew in a C-130 Hercules from St. Paul to Camp Ripley. Once at the camp, they learned about what they can do to support their employees who are or will be affected by deployment. Boss Lift participants also had the opportunity to witness the training service members receive, as well as sample military food – MREs or Meals Ready to Eat.

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is committed to supporting employees who serve in the armed forces. DOC facilities and field services offices have developed local Yellow Ribbon Committees, made up of staff volunteers, who are involved with support activities for deployed and returning staff. Many of these groups have partnered with the ESGR for training, information and ideas to benefit DOC employees.

## IT'S THE WATER

The MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake has the best tasting water in Minnesota! Officials with the Minnesota Rural Water Association identified Willow River/Moose Lake as the winner of a statewide competition. Small and rural water utilities from around the state submitted samples of their water - straight from the tap. The judges said the MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake sample was, "Clean, pure and refreshing." On April 11, Steve Bueltel, plant maintenance engineer, accepted the *Best-Tasting Water in Minnesota Award* on behalf of the facility. Willow River/Moose Lake moves on to the national contest; a winner will be selected in 2012.

## STS STORM CLEAN UP

A DOC Sentencing to Service (STS) crew from Wright County assisted with clean up after a tornado hit North Minneapolis in May. In addition to the DOC crew, six



*Pictured from left to right: DOC employees Julie Sanders, Lt. Tom Pasch and Lt. Anita Kendall on a C-130 Hercules flying to Camp Ripley.*

STS crews from Hennepin County were part of the clean up efforts. Offenders helped clear trees and other debris from neighborhoods and homes. Clean up efforts are ongoing. STS is an alternative for courts that puts carefully selected, nonviolent offenders to work on community improvement projects.

## K-9 EXCELLENCE

On May 26, two DOC corrections officers and their canine partners were honored in a graduation ceremony for law enforcement K-9s in St. Paul. Moose Lake Corrections Officer John Swenson and Stillwater Officer Brian McCarthy demonstrated K-9 searches and suspect apprehension for those in attendance. Fifteen other law enforcement dogs and officer handlers from around the state were also honored. For pictures, visit [www.facebook.com/MNDOC](http://www.facebook.com/MNDOC).





*Stillwater K-9 Officer Brian McCarthy was part of the demonstration during the K-9 graduation ceremony in May.*

## DAY OF PEACE

MCF-Red Wing juveniles celebrated the annual Day of Peace event on May 2. For the past several years, the facility has hosted a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate as part of the Day of Peace through a partnership with local non-profit youthrive. This year, former president of Costa Rica Oscar Arias Sanchez was the keynote speaker. Sanchez received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his efforts to end conflicts in Central America. He shared his message for peace with residents and staff at Red Wing. "People like to use lack of resources as an excuse," said Sanchez. "But the real problem is lack of will. That's where you come in." Pictures from the event are online at [www.facebook.com/MNDOC](http://www.facebook.com/MNDOC).

## STUDY EVALUATES PRISON REENTRY INITIATIVE

The DOC has completed *An Evaluation of the Prisoner Reentry Initiative: Final Report*; it is available on the department's public website. The Prisoner Reentry Initiative (PRI) was a pilot project that used reentry coordinators to connect offender participants to services and programming in prison and the community that addressed their individual risks, strengths and needs. Read the full report at [www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/PRIEvaluationReportFinal.pdf](http://www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/PRIEvaluationReportFinal.pdf).

*Juvenile residents at the MCF-Red Wing had the opportunity to ask Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Oscar Arias Sanchez (left) questions during the Day of Peace on May 2.*



## 2010 PROBATION SURVEY

The 2010 Probation Survey is now available. This annual publication tracks the number of probation offenders in each of Minnesota's 87 counties for management, policy-making and federal reporting purposes. As of December 31, 2010, there were 121,556 adult and juvenile offenders on probation in the state, down from 132,471 in 2009. The DOC supervises more than 18,000 offenders statewide. Only Hennepin County supervises more with 24,348. The full report is available online at [www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/2010ProbationSurvey.pdf](http://www.doc.state.mn.us/publications/documents/2010ProbationSurvey.pdf).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Two organizations have announced dates for fall conferences:

- The Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) will meet at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge September 21-23, for its annual conference. This year's theme will be Targeting Resources for Success. Details and registration information will be available soon at [www.maccac.org/](http://www.maccac.org/).
- The Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) Annual Training Institute will be October 24-25, at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis North in Brooklyn Center. Watch [www.mn-ca.org/Default.aspx](http://www.mn-ca.org/Default.aspx) for more information as it becomes available.