Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office
Corrections Division
2008 Annual Report
Message from the Director

Prevention. Supervision. Re-integration. These three components are the core of our philosophy in the Lafayette Parish Sheriff’s Office Corrections Division. A philosophy we continue to develop while meeting the national benchmarks of accreditation with the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Correctional Commission of Health Care (NCCHC). 2008 marked a successful year of building on past achievements and we anticipate continued success in 2009 as one goal is to again receive accreditation from ACA as well as accreditation for our training program.

Prevention. With the hopes of limiting the number of individuals that come into contact with the criminal justice system, the Corrections Division has taken on a role of prevention. The successful implementation of three juvenile programs - Juvenile Day Reporting Center, Leadership and Resiliency, and Youth Respite - has fostered a strong relationship with the Lafayette Parish School System (LPSS) and the Department of Health and Hospitals.

Additionally, we have coordinated our efforts with the LPSS to strengthen the truancy process. With national statistics proving 1/3 of all children entering the 9th grade are not graduating and 2/3 of all inmates lack a high school diploma, it has become our responsibility to assist the school system with resources and hopefully instill the importance of education in both students and parents.

As we look towards 2009, the Corrections Division is excited to implement a drug treatment program specifically for juveniles. With the assistance of Access to Recovery funds, we are able to provide this much needed service to an often overlooked population.

Supervision. The Lafayette Parish Correctional Center, or the jail, is the most familiar area of the Corrections Division. Established in 1984 with a capacity of 338 inmates, the LPCC population has far outgrown the original intent of this facility. In 1990, a 98-bed dorm facility often referred to as “the annex” was built. This facility was paid for and is currently operated at the expense of the Sheriff, while LPCC is owned and funded by Lafayette Consolidated Government.

As the inmate population increases, the issue of capacity within LPCC is a critical matter. In 2008, we worked with the State Fire Marshall’s Office and the Health Department to increase the overall capacity to 954 inmates. Although this helped alleviate some of the burden, we still had to stop accepting inmates for a period of time due to our jail being at full capacity. With the population of Lafayette Parish on the rise, it is anticipated that incidents such as this will occur more frequently in 2009. Therefore, a top priority this coming year will be building additional housing for those requiring this level of supervision.

Reintegration. Another responsibility of Corrections is the reintegration of individuals back into society. It is our goal to release them with a further developed skill set and a greater ability to control behavior. To accomplish this, we have implemented numerous diversion programs. Inmates are assessed and placed into programs that are tailored to their needs. Through tracking we have demonstrated that our programs have been highly successful at reducing recidivism.

In 2008, we introduced two new programs: LAPCORR and REHAB. LAPCORR an inmate labor program provides inmates the opportunity to build the skills they will need to reenter society and the workforce. The program began in January of 2008 and due to its success, plans for future growth are ongoing. REHAB, which began December 2008, is expected to have similar success and progress.

In 2009, we look forward to progression and growth in all areas of reintegration. With the two biggest concerns for inmates returning to society being housing and job seeking, the Corrections Division is assessing potential solutions. The Corrections Division upholds its responsibility of public safety and looks forward to the challenges set forth in this process, both within our parish and the state.