



COMMON GROUND

APRIL 2018 ISSUE



THE JOB TALK:
BEING A CORRECTION OFFICER

TAKE 5:
TRAINING ACADEMY TIPS

Sheriff's Statement



In this issue, we train our focus on the people tasked with the responsibility of the care and custody of the men and women remanded to our facilities at the Suffolk County House of Correction and Suffolk County Jail – our correction officers.

As we welcome our newest group of officers into service at

the Department with a story about the recent graduation of Correction Officer Training Academy Class 18-01, we also provide insight into “a day in the life of an officer” with input from three members of the custody staff, each speaking from their unique perspectives, experiences and lengths of service to the Department. In addition, we offer some useful tips from the head of our training division for anyone who may be interested in joining our organization as an officer.

As many people have heard me say, it is an often thankless and difficult job that our officers do in preserving the wellbeing of those in our care and custody while maintaining the safety of their fellow officers and staff members. These men and women of our Department, both custody and non-custody, work tirelessly every day to help make the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department among the best organizations, not only in Massachusetts, but across the country, and I am immensely proud and greatly appreciative of the work that they do.

-Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins

COMMON GROUND NEWSLETTER

SANDY ZAMOR CALIXTE - CHIEF
COLLEEN FONSECA - EDITOR
PETER VAN DELFT - EDITOR
DAVID HILL - PHOTOGRAPHER
VONEL LAMOUR - DESIGNER

SHERIFF STEVEN W. TOMPKINS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PHONE. 617-704-6688

VISIT US ONLINE

WWW.SCSDMA.ORG

Index

Sheriff's Department Welcomes 36 New Officers

Read about the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's recently graduated Correction Officer Training Academy Class 18-01.



The Job Talk: Being a Correction Officer

Featuring an interview with Captain Michael Colwell, Deputy Anya-Lauren Pierre-Louis and Officer Jonathan Anthony Mendez.

Take 5: Tips for the Correction Officer Training Academy

Learn useful tips from our Assistant Deputy Superintendent and head of training for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department about joining the Correction Officer Training Academy.



Sheriff Tompkins, Department Welcome 36 New Officers



The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department recently graduated 36 new officers from the Correction Officer Training Academy (COTA) in Chelsea, swearing them into the corrections profession during a ceremony held at the Aloft Boston Seaport Hotel, amongst family, friends and Suffolk County Sheriff's Department officials.

The former trainees successfully completed a rigorous training academy that required intensive instruction in several subjects that included: ethics and

professionalism, inmate education and programming, fire safety, CORI and inmate rights and responsibilities, sexual harassment, report writing, and more.

They also received physical training that involved proper use of force and defensive tactics. Through this combination of academics and physical training, the members of COTA Class 18-01 worked to develop and hone skills that will be critical to their assignments over the course of their careers with the Department.



Award recipients for COTA Class 18-01 included: Tevin Stowers, Academic Award; Vanessa Tavares, Defensive Tactics Award; Adena Joseph, Drill Instructors Award; and Kyle McCabe and Parris Massey, Unit Citation Award.

The other members of COTA Class 18-01 are: Darimilson Andrade, Cyre Barbour, Trinece Benson, Israel Bracho, Flint Davenport, Darryl Davis, Isaia Espinal, Brian Forbes, Gino Gallo, Jeremy Glawson, Alecea Gunn, Richard Guzowski, Nicholas Jimenez, Nelson Kadey, Christine Lopez, Evan Lorfils, Mark Loud, Soriya Mai, Andrew Mellor, Jessica Milord, Christopher Nye, Marissa O'Brien, Eric Pham, Sheri Philbrook, Isaac Phillips, Stephony Reeves, Daequan Rogers, Hector Ruiz, Johan Taborda, Samuel Watson, Anna Wong and Trevor Wright.



All 36 officers are now serving at the Suffolk County House of Correction.



THE JOB TALK: BEING A CORRECTION OFFICER

The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is now recruiting candidates to join the Department as correction officers. In an effort to provide some insight into the day-to-day life of an officer and offer some information about what the job entails, we sat down with three officers – each with varied amounts of service time to the Department – to share some of their experiences.

Captain Michael Colwell is a Captain at the Suffolk County Jail who has been with the Department for 27 years.

Deputy Anya-Lauren Pierre-Louis is a correction officer at the Suffolk County House of Correction who joined the Department four years ago.

Officer Jonathan Anthony Mendez is a correction officer at the Suffolk County Jail who has served with the Department for a year.

Tell us about your job!

Captain Michael Colwell

"I'm the shift commander on the day shift, and that means that I am in charge of the minute-to-minute operations of the day. In my 27 years, I have assumed different positions and worked up the ranks to where I am today. As a captain now, there are broader supervisory duties and a broader scope of management and the number of employees I'm responsible for and responsible to."

Deputy Anya-Lauren Pierre-Louis

"I work within the administrative segregation unit for females. I facilitate the daily activities of the women there, which includes their recreation periods, ensuring that they are able to go to receive medical services, and connecting them with their caseworker. In general, I facilitate daily activities as they are needed."

Officer Jonathan Anthony Mendez



"When people ask me what I do I explain to them I am in the unit with anywhere from 50-60 people that I'm responsible for. It's my job to look after them."



THE JOB TALK: BEING A CORRECTION OFFICER

What do you do on a daily basis?

Captain Michael Colwell

“My day starts with preparing our staffing plan in the morning before the sun is up and continues on through the transfer of our population who are going out to court. This means overseeing meal service to 700 people for their two meals in the daytime which comes out to 1,400 meals delivered on a timely basis. Sometimes there are employee situations that require immediate assistance, so I also provide support and see what the needs might be. Also, there are sometimes circumstances in which detainees require support or an extraordinary type of care and custody that needs to be addressed immediately. I also do clerical work for the shift which includes payroll, staffing, setting rosters and whatever the day brings. It’s a pretty active day.”

Deputy Anya-Lauren Pierre-Louis

“As a Correction Officer, you wear many different hats. One second you could be helping someone to receive mental health services and the next you are answering questions about visits. Day-to-day, there are different things on the schedule and whatever calls I get, I have to respond appropriately to make things happen.”

Officer Jonathan Anthony Mendez

“My job varies. On one day, I could be working in the units, where I’m responsible for the safety and security of detainees at the Jail and on other days, I may be on the road working with our Transportation Unit and moving detainees to the various courts. “

At the start of your career, what do you wish you had known? What are some things you’ve learned about the Department since being here?

Captain Michael Colwell

“Looking back on my career in corrections, I’m not sure we did it right for a long time. Warehousing human beings and just returning them home is not a pathway to success. This was a warehouse in my first few years. It’s the care that’s the important part that was overlooked, but now it is starting to be recognized inside and outside the industry as the truly important aspect.”

Deputy Anya-Lauren Pierre-Louis

“This job isn’t easy and it can be challenging emotionally and physically. It’s good to create and maintain a good support system internally and externally. Meaningful relationships with my co-workers have been really critical. You really make some impactful relationships here and these are relationships that I will keep for a lifetime.”

Officer Jonathan Anthony Mendez

“Coming in as a new guy, there have been a lot of officers here who have been very helpful to me in learning everything. We have great leadership here – like the sergeants, lieutenants, captains, and others – who do well with teaching. I’ve had the opportunity to do things that I never thought I’d have been able to do, especially just within my first year here.”



TAKE 5: TIPS FOR THE CORRECTION OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

When candidates are selected to join the Correction Officer Training Academy at the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, they are required to complete a rigorous course of physical and academic training in order to graduate and serve the Department. The Correction Officer Training Academy is a demanding experience that is designed to equip law enforcement officers with the critical training that will enable them to perform their jobs safely, efficiently and professionally.

In the following article, Jose Mojica, Assistant Deputy Superintendent and head of training for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department, offers five tips for those interested in joining the Correction Officer Training Academy.

1. Have An Open Mind

"We cover a wide variety of topics throughout the duration of our Correction Officer Training Academy. Every topic covered provides a detailed insight to areas associated with the job."

2. Pay Attention to Detail

"In the Academy something we pay a lot of attention to is how someone focuses on the small details, like their uniform and punctuality. If you don't care about the little things, then to us, that means you aren't going to care at all. In this job, you really need to care and pay attention to every detail."

3. Build Your Mental and Physical Fitness

"This one might seem obvious, but you really have to be mentally and physically fit for the rigorous schedule while in the academy. Mentally, you have to prepare yourself for the long days and early mornings. You have to be at the Correction Officer Training Academy facility in Chelsea, MA by 5:30A.M. Depending on where you live, you might have to wake up earlier to get there on time. The drill instructors meet the cadets for a 5:45A.M. start, and the day doesn't end until 2:15P.M. Physically, each exercise we do has a purpose. For example, we emphasize push-ups because you might be in a situation where you needed to utilize upper body strength. Sit-ups help us measure your core and lower back strength, and the mile-and-a-half run measures your stamina."

4. Brush Up On Your Reading and Writing Skills

"Before heading into the Correction Officer Training Academy, I really recommend that cadets brush up on their reading and writing skills. We spend time in the classroom going over policies and procedures and it'll really help you out. Writing reports and documentation are key parts of being a law enforcement officer in any agency, so having these skills is helpful."

5. Involve Your Loved Ones

"A critical part of getting through this experience is to communicate and involve your family and friends. As part of the Correction Officer Training Academy, we actually have a "Family Night" to emphasize just how important they are. You are going to be up early and have a full day of fitness, so by the late evening you are probably going to be exhausted. We all have personal obligations like children, coaching, whatever it might be. It's a really taxing experience and family can be a really important support structure through the entire process."



AROUND SUFFOLK COUNTY

House of Correction Superintendent Reads to Richard J. Murphy School Students

In celebration of National Reading Month, Suffolk County Sheriff's Department House of Correction Superintendent Yolanda Smith visited the Richard J. Murphy School in Dorchester for their annual "Get Caught Reading" event. Superintendent Smith sat with a kindergarten class and read the book, "Officer Buckle & Gloria." After her reading, Superintendent Smith fielded questions from the class and shared safety tips with the children.



Sheriff Participates in Unveiling of Making America Safe and Secure Act

Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins took part in the unveiling of U.S. Senator Ed Markey's new MASS (Making America Safe and Secure) Act. If adopted, the MASS Act would bring Massachusetts gun licensing laws to other states, serving as a model for the nation, incentivising states to adopt gun licensing standards similar to those in The Commonwealth, which has the most effective gun laws in the nation and, not coincidentally, the lowest gun death rate.





LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREERS

WE OFFER:

- Certified law enforcement academy **training**
- Average **\$48k starting** salary
- Generous medical, dental and retirement **benefits**
- College and post graduate **tuition** incentives

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- 21 years of age
- High school diploma
- U.S. citizenship
- Valid driver's license

Steven W. Tompkins, Sheriff



Suffolk County
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

20 Bradston Street, Boston, MA 02118


AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

APPLICATIONS CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE AT:

Christine Chan - Director of Recruitment

 www.scsdma.org/careers

 CChan@scsdma.org

 617-704-6566