

# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

May 15, 2009 - Weekly Update

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual 2009 Medal of Valor

(Not all recipients listed, only supervisory staff)

Correctional Supervisor of the Year

**L I N D A S . M C M A N U S**

Avenal State Prison

CDCR, on Thursday, May 14, 2009, awarded Medals of Valor during its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony to Officer Chris Briones, ISP and Special Agent Daniel Evanilla from the Office of Correctional Safety. These two awards are the highest award for heroism and courage beyond the normal demands of correctional service.

There were 53 awards given for heroic and selfless acts of courage to CDCR personnel. Besides the Medal of Valor awards, there was the Gold Star medal, which is CDCR's second highest award for heroic deeds under extraordinary circumstances. The employees receiving this award displayed courage in the face of immediate peril in acting to save the life of another person. Sergeants Umberto R. Silva Jr., Michael B. Slankard and Lieutenant Patrick Matzen from CCI and Supervising Cook Alcadio Cornil of Avenal State Prison were among those given the Gold Star.

The Silver Star is the third highest award for acts of bravery. Sergeants Matthew Atchley of SVSP, Eric Olive of ISP, and Christian Stieferman of R.A. McGee were supervisory recipients of this award.

The Bronze Star Medal is CDCR's award for saving a life without placing oneself in peril. The Distinguished Service Medal was given for an employee's exemplary work conduct with CDCR for a period of months or years, or involvement in a specific assignment of unusual benefit to CDCR. Sergeants Armando Padilla, Jesse Lara and Bryan Quesada from CIM were bestowed this distinguished medal.

The Unit Citation was given for great courage displayed by a departmental unit in the course of conducting an operation in the face of immediate life-threatening circumstances. Sergeant Landry Washington, and Lieutenants Patrick Gifford and Nathan Walker of SVSP were among those receiving this citation.

The following supervisory CDCR employees received letters of commendation from Secretary Cate:

Sgt. Matthew Atchley, SVSP; Lt. Plasido Cortez, Calipatria; Sgt. James Ellis, ISP; Sgt. Paul Fuller, ISP; Sgt. Michael Kircher, SVSP; Parole Agent II Kenston Mah, DJJ-Paroles; Lt. Robert Reifschneider, ASP; and Sgt. Oscar Valdez, Calipatria.

**CCSO has hosted the CDCR Medal of Valor Ceremony since 2004 and we will continue to partner with CDCR to make this event a special time for the men and women who receive their awards, and for their families who come to witness their loved ones being honored.**

CONGRATULATIONS!

## **GOVERNOR CLAIMS MORE CUTS ARE FORTHCOMING PER PROPOSED MAY REVISIONS!**

**5,000 Lay Off Notices:** CCSO had a conference call meeting with DPA Deputy Director Julie Chapman, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference call was scheduled by DPA and encompassed various labor groups. Chapman informed labor representatives that commencing Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> that 5000 state employees would receive lay off notices. DPA Deputy Director Chapman stated cuts would be made to state departments that were funded from California's general fund. Since CDCR is the major department funded from the general fund the majority of lay offs notices will be given to CDCR employees. She went on to say that reductions were necessary as the state's fiscal crises is "escalating". DPA will work with all labor groups to find state jobs that can replace lost positions.

As of this informational update, there are too many unanswered questions. CCSO will be scheduling meetings to obtain further information in the upcoming days. Rest assured that CCSO will be in Sacramento addressing these lay off notices. Our goal is to keep our members employed at the institution they are currently assigned. If that is unattainable, CCSO will work towards securing for those laid off members, state employment not funded from the general fund. Contact CCSO if you have received a lay off notice.

**Additional Cuts and Releasing Inmates:** The Governor will take several billion dollars out of the economy by reducing expenditures for social services, education, and more. Schwarzenegger proposed borrowing from the already fiscally hurting local governments, which he acknowledged would produce even more layoffs in public safety and other services as municipalities.

The Governor is threatening to release 38,000 inmates under his authority given to him in the California Constitution, which cites, "on conditions the Governor deems proper" without getting approval from the legislature. Releasing 38,000 inmates equates to emptying out 7 prisons. CCSO believes this threat will face major hurdles to overcome, and will ultimately not occur.

Lay off notices, releasing inmates, cuts in all state departments are the top stories in the news. Bear in mind that a special election on May 19<sup>th</sup> is just around the corner and the Governor's Office wants voters to vote Yes on measures 1A through 1F. We ask our membership to not panic, but to think through the various scenarios that are being presented to Californians, and vote your conscience.

The two May revision proposals, are not reality, and will have to be voted on by legislators to become law. In addition, all labor groups will be in the forefront fighting to protect state workers. You are not alone!

**President Obama Eliminates CDCR Funding for Illegals:** President Obama announced his intention to eliminate funding for the state's criminal alien assistance program. The program helps pay the costs for CDCR and local jails to incarcerate illegal criminal immigrants. President Obama wants to redirect the funding to better secure the borders. This redirection of funding will mean that Orange County could lose \$6.5 million and CDCR would lose \$110 million.

**T a k e C a r e a n d B e S a f e**