

GEORGIA

STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

ANNUAL REPORT 8 7

FISCAL YEAR 1987

JULY 1, 1986 - JUNE 30, 1987

TO

THE GOVERNOR

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBMITTED BY

WAYNE SNOW, JR., CHAIRMAN

JAMES T. MORRIS, MEMBER

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JAN 22 1988

NCIRS

MOBLEY HOWELL, MEMBER

MICHAEL H. WING, MEMBER

AGQUIGMENNA

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ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1987

July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987

Georgia's first parole transitional center should be under construction in 1988. It will help the State Board of Pardons and Paroles guide more parolees to success and thereby ease some of the continuing pressure of prison and jail overcrowding.

Legislature Funds Parole Transitional Center to Serve State

A transitional center for parolees is on its way. In 1987 the General Assembly appropriated \$2.1 million for a one-hundred-bed center in the Atlanta area, which is expected to open in 1989. The Parole Board appreciates this legislative support.

The center will give the Board a middle way to handle offenders — between paroling them to live at home and the alternative of keeping them in or returning them to prison.

For example, the center will house parolees who come out of prison with no acceptable residence plans. Parole officers among the center staff will help them get situated in the community.

Some other parolee residents may have medical or emotional difficulties. The Board will want to observe them closely in the center before letting them go home.

A third type of center resident will be a parolee who had been living at home but had had problems obeying parole conditions. The Board will have ordered him into the center for a last chance to get straightened out before returning to prison.

All residents of the parole transitional center will live under strict rules and be subject to surveillance and counseling. Each parolee's individual adjustment and progress will determine whether he stays there weeks or months. The goals will be to protect society and salvage all who are salvageable, thereby easing the high prison-cost burden on Georgia taxpayers.

Architectural plans for the parole center are almost complete. It will be built next to a similar Department of Corrections work-release center, which, for economy's sake, will provide food service to both centers. Once site acquisition is realized, groundbreaking will occur soon after.

Commutations Help Reduce Record-High Jail Backlog -- Temporarily

High prison admissions, which strained State facilities in 1986, continued during 1987 to the point that Parole Board special action became necessary.

On May 22, 1987, State prisons had become so full that persons sentenced to serve in State custody but still waiting in county jails numbered 3,010, an all-time record high. Sheriffs responsible for these jails asked for relief. Shortly thereafter, as had occurred intermittently for 20 years under past administrations of Governors Maddox, Carter, and Busbee, the Parole Board started a special release program.

This time the Board tailored its criteria to consider inmates serving sentences of two years or less, primarily for non-violent offenses, and inmates serving on revoked probation when the reason for revocation was no more than a rules violation or a non-violent misdemeanor. Each such case was considered individually for possible commutation to time served after confinement for three months.

In a parallel effort, the Board on May 26, 1987, sent to every Georgia sheriff a written invitation to assess the inmates backed up in his county jail who had been confined at least four months on no more than one-year sentences for non-violent offenses. The invitation gave sheriffs the opportunity to recommend any of these jail inmates for commutation.

From late June through November 1987, the Board commuted sentences to release 2,629 inmates, including 105 on sheriffs' recommendations. Admittedly, they would have been released later on regular parole. However, this earlier action helped reduce the jail backlog from 3,000 to 1,300, possibly staving off jail violence and overcrowding-based lawsuits.

Nevertheless, the Board's best efforts did not prevent the State prison population from rising steadily. During Fiscal Year 1987 the Parole Board released 9,152 persons while 3,173 more inmates were discharged upon sentence completion by the Department of Corrections. Therefore, the total leaving prison was 12,325. Meanwhile, the total entering the prison system was 13,710, causing the State prison population to grow by 1,385 inmates.

The continuing struggle against prison and jail overcrowding causes the Parole Board to renew its support, stated in last year's Annual Report, for needed expansion of State prison system capacity.

Parole Policy Pushes Fight Against Spread of AIDS

Twenty-three parolees with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS-related complex, or AIDS-infected blood were under supervision in Georgia as of December I, 1987. All are governed by special parole conditions to safeguard public health, specified in a Board policy adopted in November 1986. The policy is working smoothly.

Before parole, an AIDS-carrying inmate must demonstrate a commitment to prevent any risk of spreading the infection to others. After release, special parole conditions, for example, prohibit donating and selling blood and require disclosure of the parolee's medical condition to all who share his place of residence.

Problems encountered by these parolees include housing difficulties, negative community attitudes, reduced medical care, and lack of support groups. Parole officers hope to better address these problems with assistance from other agencies such as the Department of Human Resources.

The Georgia Department of Corrections saw the number of known AIDS-infected inmates rise to 92 by December I, 1987. All had been housed at Augusta Correctional and Medical Institution until their growing numbers caused the Department to decide to relocate some of them to segregated quarters at Rutledge Correctional Institution at Columbus, Georgia State Prison at Reidsville, and Georgia Women's Correctional Institution at Hardwick.

The number of identified AIDS carriers is expected to increase faster when the Corrections Department begins its new practice of testing every inmate who asks for it.

Intravenous drug use with sharing of dirty needles apparently spread the AIDS virus to most of the inmate carriers before they entered prison. If and when they are paroled, the Board monitors them closely. Such persons are the primary source of heterosexual and perinatal AIDS transmission.

The Parole Board has applied for a U.S. Justice Department grant to fund a statewide urinalysis program. It would help parole officers speed the identification and treatment of parolee drug abusers. The goals are more deterrence of parolee drug abuse and therefore fewer victims of drug-influenced offenders and fewer AIDS victims.

Offender Tracking Information System Brings Computer Age in Full Force to Parole

The Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS), a computer project providing a vast array of automated information on inmates, parolees, ex-inmates, and probationers, became operational in 1987. It is expanding the Board's capabilities, not only to retrieve information fast, but also to track case preparation, decision making, and file location.

OTIS was developed jointly by the Department of Corrections and the Parole Board over a three-year period. Its corrections component came on line during August 1987, and the parole component, comprising 200 programs, began phasing in on December 7.

Central office employees use 70 computer terminals connected to the OTIS data base. This helps them keep each inmate case on track toward a timely parole decision. The old Kardex card file system and other unwieldy manual tracking devices will soon be gone.

After release, OTIS will keep tracking each parolee and maintain a record of his supervision and behavior. Funds have already been approved for placing computer terminals in field parole offices, beginning in July 1988, in Atlanta, Decatur, Marietta, Rome, and Milledgeville.

The Board's central office employees have for years been using computers to save time and labor. Computer printers produce parole consideration notices to judges and district attorneys, parole notification letters to court and law enforcement officials, memo requests for parole officers to conduct pre-parole social investigations on inmates and legal investigations on the circumstances of their offenses, requests for verification of parole residence and employment plans, and parole decision notices to inmates.

In early 1988 the Board's Computer Services Section will begin design work on a system to help field parole offices manage their workloads.

Board Denies Commutation of Six Death Sentences

Six times during Fiscal Year 1987 and the first quarter of FY 1988 the Parole Board considered commuting death sentences. In each instance a commutation was denied.

Denials were issued in the cases of James Messer on July 8, 1986, Joseph Holcombe Mulligan on May 14, 1987, Richard Tucker, Jr., on May 22, 1987, William Boyd Tucker on May 28, 1987, William "Billy" Mitchell on September 1, 1987, and Timothy W. McCorquodale on September 21, 1987.

Of all cases sentenced under Georgia's 1973 capital punishment law, the Board has made decisions on sixteen, granting one commutation and denying fifteen. During this time twelve death sentences have been carried out.

Victims and Counties Receive Payments from Parolees for Third Year

Now three years old, the parole condition requiring parolees to pay court-ordered restitution to victims and fines to counties continues to yield high returns. During Fiscal Year 1987 the total collected was \$353,431.65.

It used to be that when a judge ordered a person imprisoned and to pay a fine or restitution, he had to add a period on probation, following the prison sentence, to collect the payments. Because of the Board's added parole condition, waiting for probation is not necessary.

As soon as a person is paroled from prison, his parole officer directs him to start making any court-ordered payments to the local probation office, which distributes the money to the victim or county treasury as the judge ordered. Parolees who fail to make timely payments are reported for disciplinary action, which could be as severe as parole revocation.

November 1984 was when the Board began adding the court-ordered-payment condition to every new parole certificate. The Board thought that earlier payment to victims and counties would promote more complete payment. This has been proven true.

During Fiscal Year 1987, parolees paid the following:

Restitution				\$ 80,157.52
Fines				248,830.76
Court Costs				5,381.26
Attorneys' Fees	and Other	Legal	Costs	19,062.11
TOTAL				\$353,431.65

In addition, during Fiscal Year 1987 the Board took a hard look at certain inmates serving for large-scale drug sales and investigated their ability to pay their court-ordered fines. Those with the ability to pay were required to pay their fines before parole. In this way the Board extracted \$60,000 for county treasuries.

Field Operations Division Adds New Parole Districts and New Area

On July 1, 1987, the Board's Field Operations Division expanded from 26 to 32 parole districts. This reorganization recognized the growing workload and staff of field offices which had previously been designated district sub-offices.

At the same time, a new field area was created so that now the 32 districts are grouped into six areas, rather than five. These changes are reflected in the organization chart and state map at the end of this report.

The number of parolees under supervision in Georgia grew from 7,407 at the end of November 1985 to 9,946 at the end of November 1987 -- a 34 percent workload increase in two years. During the same period the number of parole officers rose from 242 to 268, an increase of 11 percent.

The expanding parolee population continually points up the need for the supervising parole officer staff to grow in proportion.

Parole Supervision Fees Keep Flowing Faster into State Treasury

Parole supervision fee collections during the third year boosted the three-year total above \$1.6 million. All of this amount has been deposited in the State treasury.

It was a 1984 law which authorized the Parole Board to collect a \$10-per-month fee from each parolee to help pay part of the State's cost for supervising and counseling him on parole. This ushered in a new parole condition in November 1984 which is enforced for all parolees who are physically able to work or who are financially able to pay. They send \$10 certified checks or money orders to the Board's central office every month.

First-year supervision fee collections totaled \$276,412.30, second-year receipts were \$602,968.81, and the third and most recent year, ending October 31, 1987, saw \$743,078.20 flow in. Therefore, the grand total collected is \$1,622,459.31.

Training Moves Forward on Several Fronts to Serve Employees in Manifold Ways

Six weeks of basic training for all new parole officers became standard during spring 1987 as the Parole Board became the first agency to use the new Georgia Public Safety Training Center at Forsyth.

The unequaled facilities at the \$60 million center have now been used by two parole officer groups, which began their six weeks of training in May and September 1987. They were the ninth and tenth classes since intensive basic training began as a three-week course in 1983. There have been 293 graduates.

The expanded course gives special emphasis to physical fitness training, interpersonal communications, and legal aspects of parole work. This is in addition to training in such subjects as firearms, arrest procedures, ethics, investigation and supervision procedures, and surveillance techniques.

To validate the training, the Board's Personnel and Training Section conducted a parole officer job-task analysis to identify the knowledge and skills an entry-level officer must possess to perform successfully. The result was a strong validation of course subjects.

Also during the fiscal year, in-service training was provided to all parole officers in legal liabilities, AIDS awareness, fingerprinting, and two-way radio communication (automobile and portable). In January 1987 supervision staff received management training in employee evaluation and employee discipline.

In September 1986 all Board secretaries and clerks assembled in classes in Macon to sharpen their interpersonal skills and take part in assertiveness training.

A 235-item stress survey in August 1986 polled all employees to determine their perceptions of management practices and job tasks in order to identify the agency's key stressors. This has given the Board data to use in developing ways to combat stress and its negative effects.

Bettye O. Hutchings Replaces Board Member Mamie B. Reese

Bettye O. Hutchings of Macon was appointed to Board membership by Governor Joe Frank Harris effective September 16, 1987.

Mrs. Hutchings had been a member of the State Board of Corrections since 1983 and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council since 1981 and had served terms as chairman of both agencies. She had also been a licensed funeral director in business with her husband.

Mrs. Hutchings replaced Mamie B. Reese of Albany, who retired after serving on the Board for more than fourteen years.

Wayne Snow, Jr., Serving Third Year as Chairman

Board Members re-elected Wayne Snow, Jr., to a third term as chairman of the Board effective July I, 1987. Mr. Snow has been a Board member since 1983 and has been elected chairman annually since 1985.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Snow, Jr., Chairman

James T. Morris, Member

Mobley Howell, Member

Michael H. Wing, Member

Betty O. Hutchings, Member

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

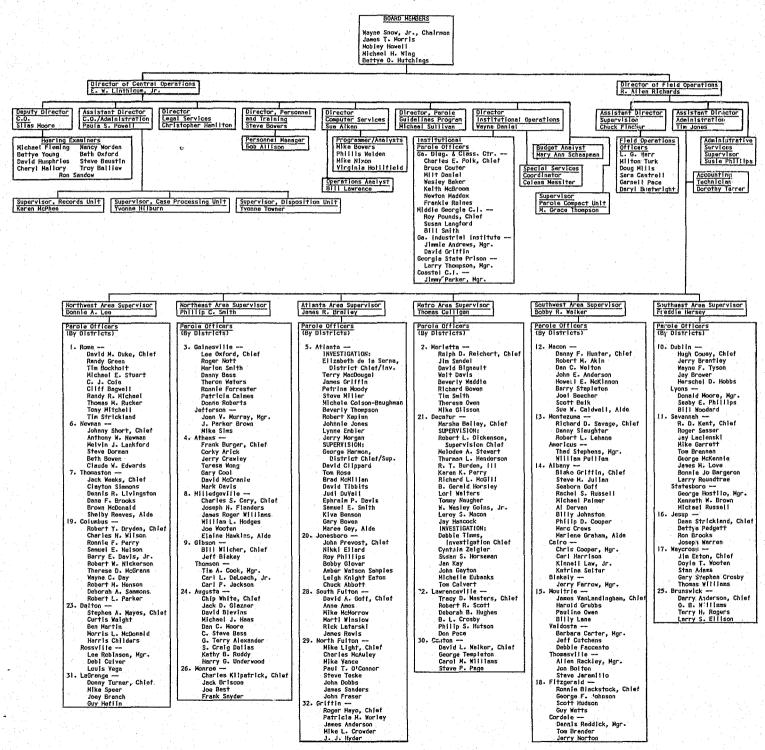
Activity for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1987

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Parole Conditional Transfer to Detainer Youthful Offender Conditional Release		8,283 271 0
Commutation to Time Served Remission to Probation Reprieve & Conditional Commutation for Short-Sentence Inmate		62 3 533
Total Release Action		9,152
Revocation of Parole Revocation of Youthful Offender Conditional Release Other Revocation and Cancellation		2,513 4 119
Total Returns to Prison		2,636
Board Decision under Guidelines Decision to Deny Parole	892	8,438
Decision to Grant Tentative Parole Month 7 Board Decision on Life-Sentence Inmate Decision to Deny Parole	,546 746	837
Decision to Grant Parole Decision to Grant at 1st Consideration	91 10	
Discharge from Parole Youthful Offender Unconditional Release Restoration of Civil and Political Rights		3,955 ,431
Upon Discharge from Parole Upon Application	,017 414	, TO
Pardon Medical or Compassionate Reprieve Commutation Reducing Sentence Without Release		90 525 5
Death Sentence Commutation Granted Death Sentence Commutation Denied Visitor Interview in Central Office		0 4 2,189
Inmate Interview at Institution Preliminary Revocation Hearing Final Revocation Hearing		223 378 246
Total Other Action		18,322
TOTAL BOARD ACTIVITY		30,110
Total Inmates on 6-30-87 Releasees under Supervision in Georgia on 6-30-87 Parolees Youthful Offenders	,259 105	18,370 9,942
Other States' Parolees Board Releasees under Supervision in Other States	578	976

State Board of Pardons and Paroles



December 1, 1987



State Board of Pardons and Paroles

PAROLE DISTRICTS December 1, 1987

