



2011 Annual Report

U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office
Northern District of Ohio

Judicial Officers

United States District Court - Northern District of Ohio

~ District Judges ~

Solomon Oliver, Jr., Chief Judge
Donald C. Nugent
Patricia A. Gaughan
James S. Gwin
Dan Aaron Polster
John R. Adams
Christopher A. Boyko
Jack Zouhary
Sara Lioi
Benita Y. Pearson

~ Senior District Judges ~

David D. Dowd, Jr.
David A. Katz
Lesley Wells
James G. Carr

~ Magistrate Judges ~

Nancy A. Vecchiarelli
George J. Limbert
William H. Baughman, Jr.
Kenneth S. McHargh
Greg White
James R. Knepp, II
Kathleen B. Burke
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Report of Chief Pretrial Services and Probation Officer

It is with great satisfaction and pride that I present the 2011 Annual Report for the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office. This report is a culmination of many significant accomplishments, goals, and challenges. Our staff's commitment to serving the Court and the community has made 2011 another outstanding year. Here are some significant events and achievements throughout the fiscal year:

- We are very proud to have six officers involved in the Federal Judicial Center's (FJC) Leadership Development Program. The FJC's Leadership Development Program for Probation and Pretrial Services Officers is a three-year program that teaches and develops leadership skills through a combination of formal instruction, project-based learning, and one-on-one interaction with faculty mentors. Officers must apply and be accepted to the program.
- We continue to be committed to our reentry courts throughout the district. The programs, known as Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry (STAR), have been held in Toledo for two years and in Cleveland for over a year. Cleveland held its first graduation ceremony on June 14, 2011 for two program participants. The Youngstown division held its first Reentry Court on September 14, 2011.
- The Cleveland educational program/General Educational Development (GED) began its fall class schedule on September 6, 2011. The class has been expanded and is now held year round, two days a week for two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. Providing two classes allows us to accommodate an increase in referrals and separate students according to their aptitude, allowing more individualized assistance. Our Youngstown office has also begun the process of implementing an educational program/GED and our Akron office has partnered with Project LEARN, to improve the General Educational Development GED intake process for defendants/offenders.
- On September 8-9, 2011, the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office conducted its second district-wide scenario-based safety training. Officers participated in a series of reality-based scenarios, such as home and office visits. They utilized the district's "use of force" continuum to respond to potentially threatening situations. We partnered with other federal and state law enforcement agencies, who volunteered to participate as actors/role players. The goal for this training was to increase officer safety and awareness.

- Our district was very excited to host this year's 6th and 7th Circuit Pretrial and Probation Chiefs and Deputy Chiefs meeting on September 21-23, 2011. We had a very upbeat agenda, to coincide with the theme of "Playing Into the Future: A Leadership Jam Session." The 6th and 7th Circuits alternate hosting the meeting in their district each year. This year we were able to secure speakers from the Administrative Office, the FJC, a panel of Northern District of Ohio judicial officers, a Bankruptcy Clerk of Court, and other distinguished guests.
- Under the "Second Chance Act Program," our district implemented our first full-scale transitional services program. The district partnered with the Cuyahoga Community College Truck Driving Academy and selected four candidates to participate in their six-week program, which included Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training/certification with a passenger endorsement. The entire cost of the program was paid for using Second Chance Act funding. In addition, the program will look to expand transitional services in other areas and include our divisional offices in the coming year.
- This year our office made great strides with document imaging and becoming paperless. All documents are now scanned at case opening and throughout the pendency of the case. This process allows the officer to operate without the use of a hard copy of the case file, but rather using document imaging in PACTS to access documents. To date, the transition has been successful, with officers and support staff working together to achieve this goal.

Our office continues to move ahead, raising the standards of service and interaction with our clientele while also protecting the community. I am grateful to the judges for their support in our implementation of new and challenging programs to meet the needs of the Court and community. I am extremely proud of our officers who continually provide the Court delivery of exceptional investigative and supervision services, and the support staff who provide the quality work and dedication to fulfill the responsibilities of our office. We look forward to meeting the challenges of the future.

Greg L. Johnson
Chief U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Officer

Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System

Mission

As the component of the federal judiciary responsible for community corrections, the Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System is fundamentally committed to providing protection to the public and assisting in the fair administration of justice.

Beliefs

We Believe...

In the right of all persons to be treated with dignity and fairness.

In our role of ensuring that the Court is provided information vital to making appropriate decisions, pretrial release decisions and imposing just and fair sentences.

In the protection of the public as the most vital aspect of community supervision and in proper supervision as the best means to control and reduce risk.

In the ability of people to change and in our responsibility to provide persons under our supervision with opportunities for treatment.

In individual commitment to a shared vision as the best way to achieve our mission.

Vision

The Federal Probation and Pretrial Services System strives to exemplify the highest ideals and standards in community corrections.

Northern District of Ohio by County

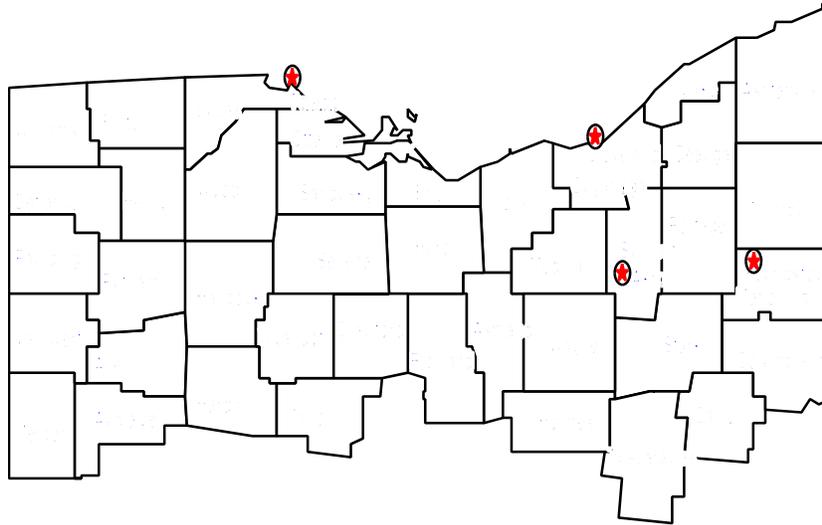


Figure 1 - Northern District of Ohio

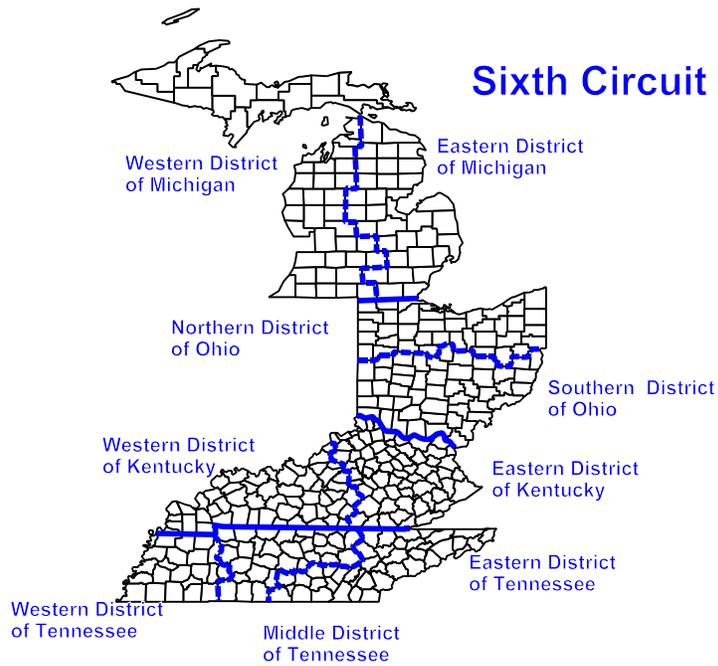


Figure 2 - Sixth Circuit

Pretrial Services

Referrals

Pretrial Services referrals continued at a steady pace during FY 11. Officers processed a large volume of cases and mass arrests, including high-profile cases from the Cuyahoga County corruption investigation. The Pretrial Services unit continues to receive case referrals by way of arrest and summons. Upon receipt of the charging documents and defendant identifiers, officers conduct automated records checks and the defendant is interviewed. Information is verified through various sources and a report is subsequently provided to the Court. In many instances, special conditions of release are imposed by the Court, which can include substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as participation in the Location Monitoring Program (LMP). Officers continue to utilize various resources locally and nationally in the supervision of defendants. Officers now have access to Second Chance Act funding for services necessary to protect the public and ensure that such persons appear in court, as required.

FY 2011 Case Data

- 1,030 cases were activated
- 490 cases were supervised
- 877 defendants were interviewed
 - 22 defendants refused to be interviewed
- 508 defendants were detained and never released which is a 46.8% detention rate

Pretrial Diversion Program

The Pretrial Diversion Program continues to be a viable alternative to prosecution in some cases. The objective of the program is to divert individuals from processing through the criminal justice system. The Chief Pretrial Services and Probation Officer and the U.S. Attorney have developed a written operations agreement which outlines referral and supervision procedures. This fiscal year the district supervised four pretrial diversion cases, which is a decrease from FY 10.

Cases Activated by Office

As of September 30, 2011

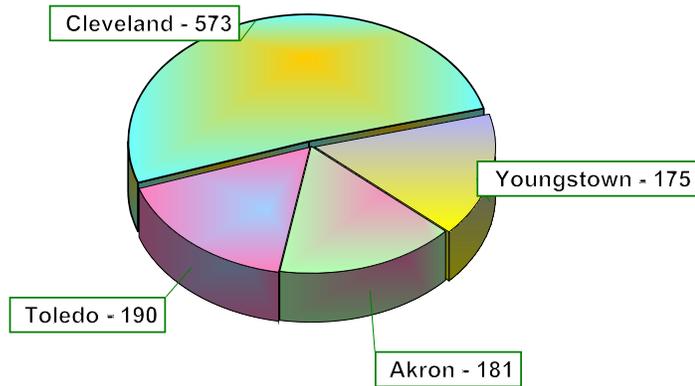


Figure 3 - Cases Activated by Office

Defendants by Offenses

As of September 30, 2011

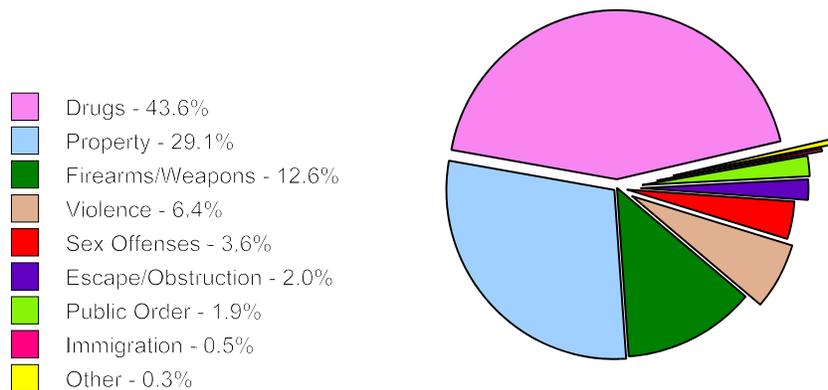


Figure 4 - Defendants by Offenses

Programs for Pretrial Services Defendants

Aftercare Treatment Program

During FY 11 there were 361 pretrial cases active with drug aftercare conditions, including substance abuse testing and treatment. Of these cases, 218 were opened during FY 11 and 143 were active entering into FY 11.

In addition to cases with drug aftercare conditions, there were 140 pretrial cases with mental health conditions active in FY 11. Of these cases, 104 were opened in FY 11 and 36 were active entering into FY 11.

Defendants with drug aftercare and mental health conditions continue to make up a significant portion of the supervision cases. These cases provide the greatest challenge to officers while under supervision. As a result, extensive resources were devoted to these cases. These resources included the time spent by officers supervising the higher-risk cases, and financial resources expended on services for these defendants. The drug aftercare services included urinalysis, evaluations, outpatient treatment, and residential treatment. The mental health services included psychological and psychiatric evaluations, medication monitoring, and individual counseling. Numerous defendants received multiple services to address their issues.

Officers continued to closely monitor the high-risk drug aftercare and mental health cases. Officers reported apparent violations to the Court, following the district's policy of graduated sanctions. The defendants received assistance and referrals to address their substance abuse and/or mental health issues. The goal of the Pretrial Services unit is to provide the defendants with the necessary services which make it possible for them to remain in compliance with their imposed conditions of release.

As noted in the Service Costs table, substance abuse and mental health services are provided in units. Individual and group counseling are provided in thirty-minute units. Residential services are per day. Urine collections, evaluations, and medication monitoring are each specified as a unit.

Pretrial Transition Program

On April 7, 2011, the Pretrial Services and Probation Office launched its first Pretrial Transition Program in Cleveland. Staff from the Bureau of Prisons (BOP), FCI Elton, traveled to Cleveland to orient defendants for transition to prison life. The Court provided an unused courtroom in which the event was conducted with videoconferencing to the Akron, Toledo and Youngstown offices, in order to accommodate all defendants throughout the district. Family members were also invited. Defendants, after entering pleas of guilty and/or sentencing, were chosen for this program by pretrial staff. Guest speakers provided details on everything from what defendants are allowed to take into the prisons, to

medication and visitation, to the rules and procedures within the prisons. They also discussed how to successfully succeed within the prison walls. The defendants and their guests had several questions during and after the program, which suggested their appreciation for the program. The second orientation was held on July 7, 2011. The BOP, FCI Elkton, has agreed to partner with the district to present this program on a quarterly basis. The program thus far has been very informative and successful, and is a “win-win” situation for all involved.

Voluntary Initial Drug Test

Voluntary Initial Drug Test Table As of September 30, 2011	
Number of Positive Tests	86
Number of Negative Tests	203
Total Tested	289
Total Not Tested	319
Total Defendants	608

Table 1 - Voluntary Initial Drug Test

The reasons for defendants not being tested were primarily due to refusals, time constraints, incarceration on other charges, and telephonic interviews.

The results of the voluntary initial drug test assist the officer in making an informed assessment and recommendation to the Court relative to release conditions. Also, the information is used in supervision cases to establish appropriate urinalysis and drug aftercare conditions for the defendant.

Location Monitoring Program

The LMP is used as an alternative to detention. Radio Frequency (RF) electronic monitoring is the technology used most frequently to verify the defendant's presence at home. Global Positioning System (GPS) technology was used in 34 cases throughout FY 11. This is an increase of 127% over its use in FY 10.

There were 33 active location monitoring cases at the beginning of FY 11, and an additional 92 cases were supervised during FY 11. This represents a 35% increase over FY 10, where 50 cases were active at the start of FY 10 and 68 new cases were activated.

- During FY 11, the average length of time spent in the LMP was 5.2 months.
- Violation reports were filed on 17 defendants, and bond was ultimately revoked on 8 of those individuals.

Types of Charged Offenses for Location Monitoring As of September 30, 2011		
Offense	Number of Defendants	Percentage of Total
Drugs	49	53%
Firearms/Explosives	8	9%
Theft/Fraud	14	15%
Sex Offenses	16	17%
Other	5	6%
Totals	92	100%

Table 2 - Types of Charged Offenses for Location Monitoring

Probation

Presentence Investigations

The Northern District of Ohio completed a total of 710 investigations in FY 11. This includes both pre-plea and presentence reports. This represents a decrease of 2.3% (17 reports) over the number from the previous year. In addition, the district completed 332 collateral reports for other districts and 180 Criminal History Reports for the Court (which represents a 320% increase from the number completed in FY 10).

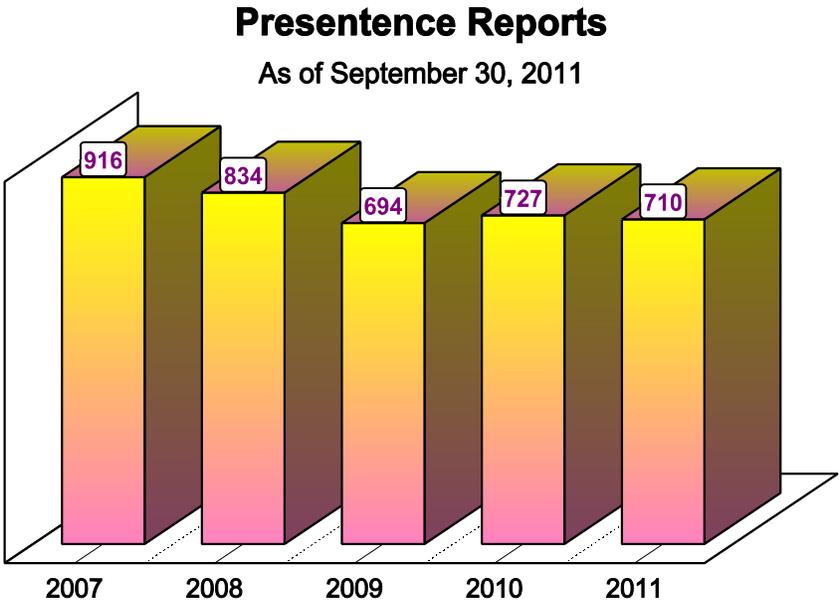


Figure 5 - Presentence Reports

As noted in the Completion of Reports by Office chart (Figure 6), of the total reports, Akron completed 161 (22.7%), Cleveland completed 418 (58.9%), Toledo completed 86 (12.1%), and Youngstown completed 45 (6.3%). The reports were prepared by sixteen writers, three less writers than last year. While the district did complete less reports in FY 11, officers prepared an average of 44.4 reports (an increase of over six reports per officer). The loss of presentence writers was due to organizational restructuring based on the needs of the office.

Completion of Reports by Office

As of September 30, 2011

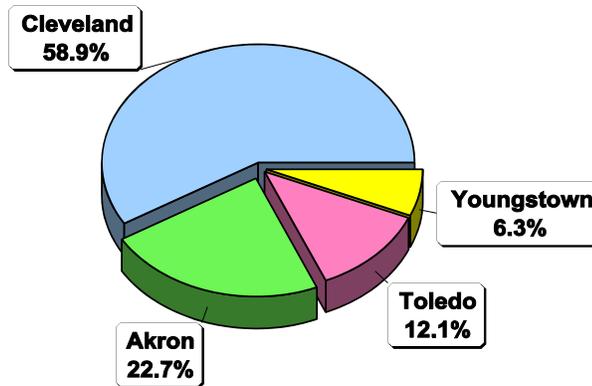


Figure 6 - Completion of Reports by Office

Of the reports completed during FY 11, the most serious offense of conviction in 32.4% of the cases were drugs, 21.8% were fraud, and 20.5% were firearms, as noted in the Offense Breakdown chart (Figure 7). Drug cases represented the largest increase of 10.1%, with firearms offenses having the second largest increase of 1.6%. Of the 710 total reports, 87% were male while 13% were female. In addition, 50.4% were black, while 45.4% were caucasian, as illustrated in the Offenders by Gender chart (Figure 8) and Offenders by Race chart (Figure 9).

Offense Breakdown

As of September 30, 2011

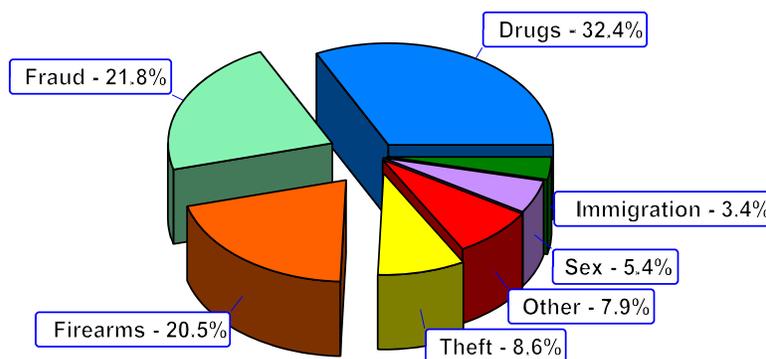


Figure 7 - Offense Breakdown

Offenders by Gender

As of September 30, 2011

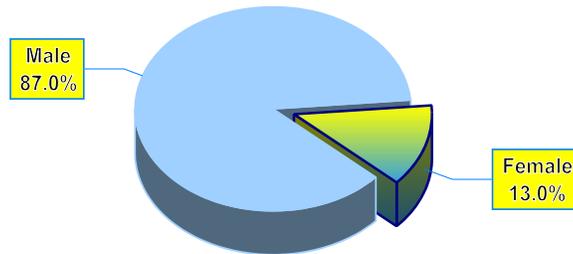


Figure 8 - Offenders by Gender

Offenders by Race

As of September 30, 2011

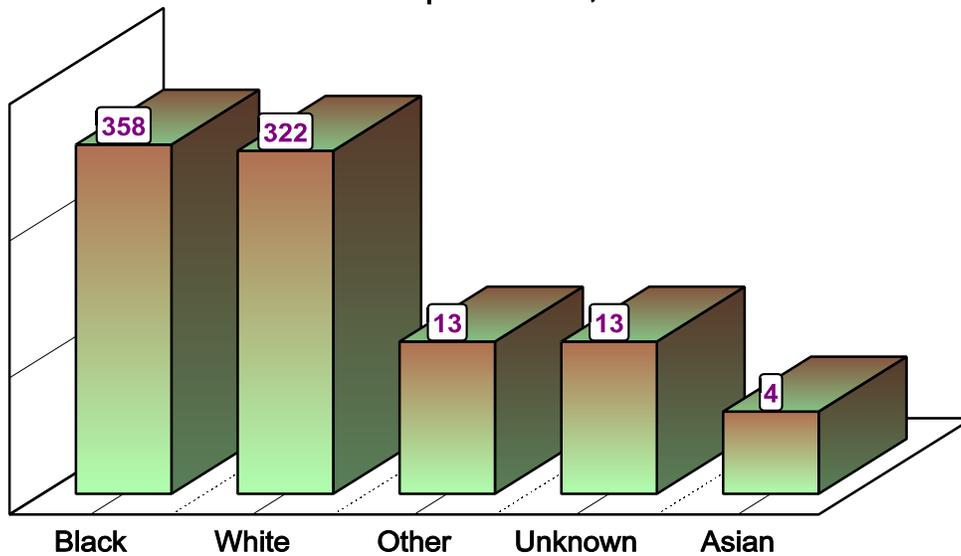


Figure 9 - Offenders by Race

During FY 11, the Northern District of Ohio averaged approximately forty-four days for completion of initial reports. A breakdown by office reveals the average days to complete an initial report was 42.3 days for Akron, 40.6 days for Cleveland, 66.5 days for Toledo, and 36.1 days for Youngstown. The overall average allowed the district to rank in the top ten districts with the shortest completion time for part of the year.

Several officers took advantage of training opportunities throughout the year. The U.S. Sentencing Commission presented a training seminar to all officers in April 2011. Also, five officers attended the U.S. Federal Sentencing Guidelines Seminar in San Diego, California.

Officers continued to use webcams from their desks in some cases to conduct the presentence interview of offenders from select holding facilities. This past year, the presentence unit continued to work on reports dealing with the Cuyahoga County corruption cases, and handled several fraud and drug-related cases which each contained more than fifteen codefendants.

Post Conviction Supervision

At the end of FY 11, the district was supervising 1,961 active cases, which is a 3% decrease from FY 10. Five of the seven post-conviction supervisors also oversee officers performing pretrial and/or presentence functions. An additional presentence supervisor will be added to post-conviction in FY 12.

PACTS/PACTS Mobile upgrades continue to assist in the overall management of cases with emphasis on becoming paperless and mobile. Additional national forms and reports have been automated. Officers continue to be reminded about improving their completion of chronological entries, conducting thorough and regular case staffing, and making sure the information in PACTS is current. As minimum timeliness standards were increased from 85% to 90%, officers were challenged to improve timeliness across the board, including completion of initial plans. Supervisors strive to accompany officers in the field at least bi-annually.

The Cybercrime, Employment, Location Monitoring and Aftercare Treatment specialists trained/worked with staff on process changes/improvements, risk issues, community resources and new policies/programs for defendants/offenders. Searches were conducted and strategies to comply with the Adam Walsh Act continue to be implemented. The Sex Offender Management Manual was implemented and later the Sex Offender Travel Policy. The National Sex Offender Policy and Sex Offender Management Procedures Manual went into effect and were compared/contrasted to our local policies at district-wide training. The Offender Employment Program continued to expand with additional job readiness and entrepreneurship programs. The LMP has increased the use of GPS and alcohol detection technology as an option in monitoring defendants/offenders. The Reentry Court Program in the Western Division (Toledo) completed another year and the program in Cleveland completed one full year with a graduation ceremony. The Youngstown program began and the Akron program is next for implementation.

The year was punctuated by several important training initiatives which had significant impact on post-conviction supervision, such as Document Imaging, Employee Relations, Cybersecurity Awareness, Access to Law Enforcement Systems (ATLAS), PACTS Document Imaging Module (PDIM) Assist, Sex Offender Management, Safety (Search and Seizure, Defensive Tactics/Laser Shot, Firearms, CPR/First Aid/AED and Scenario), Pretrial/Post Conviction Risk Assessment (PCRA), Defendant/Offender Workforce Development, Experienced Supervisor, Financial Investigations and ePerformance.

In an effort to increase evidence-based practices, more low-risk supervision activity (Administrative) cases were identified/transferred and minimum contact standards and nontraditional work hour policies are being developed. In Youngstown, several initial high-risk cases were identified for participation in the STAR Program. A three-officer team is supervising these cases with support from clerical staff. The case planning and supervision process in all offices continues to improve via close communication between supervisors, specialists and line officers. Automation, PACTS, dual computer monitors, iPads, collaboration and paperless files, have streamlined the process. We completed 703 supervision reports, 999 violation reports, 279 supplemental reports and 259 special reports.

We completed 367 prerelease reports, 155 pre-transfers investigations, and 5 furlough investigations. We added completion of one BOP report as we began supervising LMP cases for the BOP.

Reentry initiatives continue. In addition to our presence at the Residential Reentry Centers and other BOP facilities, we have increased participation in defendant/offender employment/educational programs to facilitate a successful transition for defendants/offenders into the community. Pre-release assignments continue in an effort to address, as early as possible, any potential barriers to success on supervision, such as employment, education and training, substance abuse and mental health concerns, physical health, child care, transportation, identification and homelessness. We continue to partner with private, public and faith-based community agencies and businesses to help us better serve our customers, to include the Courts, the community, and the participants. We increased our use of Second Chance Act funds to extend our ability to offer defendants/offenders additional emergency and transitional services needed.

Post Conviction Risk Assessment Implementation

The PCRA is an instrument constructed by the Administrative Office to help officers measure criminogenic (crime causing) characteristics and treatment needs. Following evidence-based practices, the PCRA predicts risk by classifying offenders in one of four risk categories--low, low moderate, moderate, and high. The intention is for officers to accurately measure risk and develop interventions targeted at those risks in the hope of reducing the probability of criminal recidivism within the population serving probation or supervised release terms.

All post-conviction supervision officers were trained in the use of PCRA at a regional training seminar sponsored by the AO in Detroit, Michigan in March 2011. An implementation team consisting of supervisors and post-conviction supervision officers was developed. Supervisors and officers have begun familiarization with PCRA. Each post-conviction officer selects a new supervision case to screen using PCRA. Officers and supervisors score the new case using the automated PCRA inventory available through PACTS to arrive at a determination of risk level. Full implementation of PCRA is anticipated soon.

Offenders Under Supervision

As of September 30, 2011

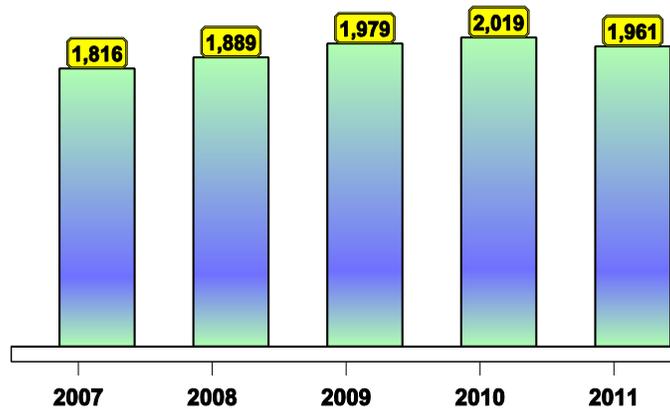


Figure 10 - Offenders Under Supervision

Offenders by Race

As of September 30, 2011

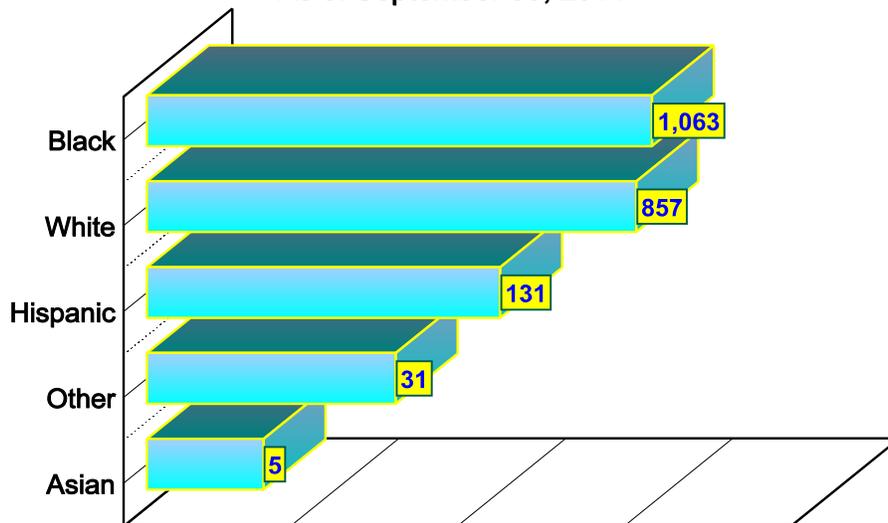


Figure 11 - Offenders by Race

Offenders Under Supervision by Type

As of September 30, 2011

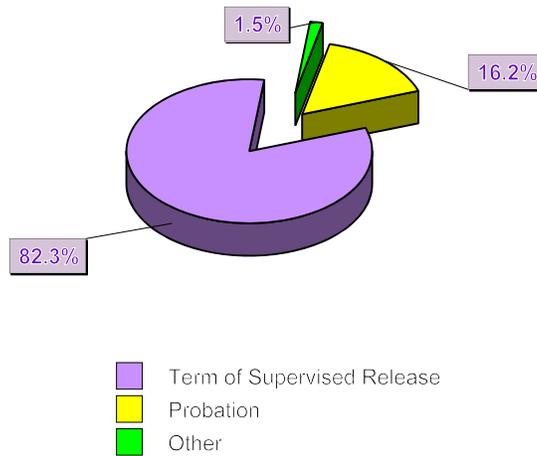


Figure 12 - Offenders Under Supervision by Type

Offenders by Gender

As of September 30, 2011

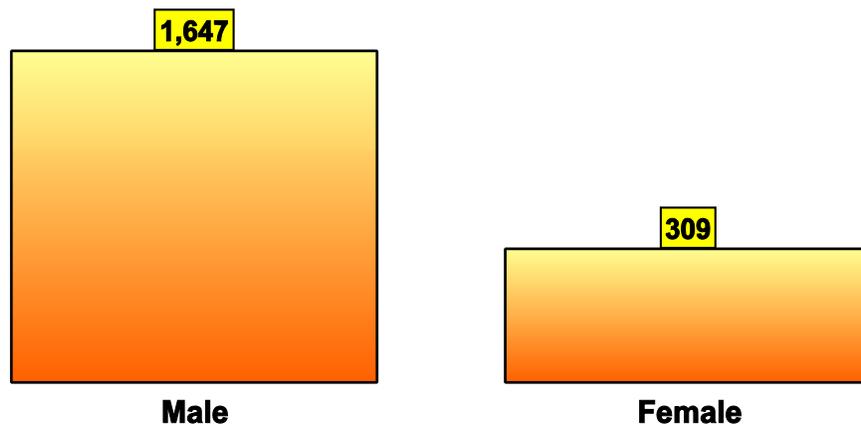


Figure 13 - Offenders by Gender

Programs for Post Conviction Offenders

Aftercare Treatment Program

The U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office continued to provide an array of substance abuse, mental health and sex offender treatment services for offenders in 725 post-conviction cases with aftercare special conditions in FY 11.

FY 11 was the second year of the procurement cycle. We have forty-nine contract agencies throughout the district.

The utilization of non-contract services is encouraged, where they exist and are accessible, in order to provide the case management services essential to our mental health and homeless offenders.

The STAR Program initiative in the Northern District of Ohio expanded from Toledo in 2009, to Cleveland in 2010, and to Youngstown in 2011. The reentry court concept is grounded in Cognitive Behavioral Treatment (CBT). CBT utilizes primarily group dynamics on a weekly basis to facilitate the development of constructive strategies for problem resolution, anger management, constructive peer relationships, and a better understanding of the connection between behavior and consequences. Individual CBT is provided to reentry court participants as a step-down strategy following graduation from the CBT group while still in the reentry court program. CBT programs utilized in reentry court include "Thinking for a Change" and "Transitioning 2 Success."

The Aftercare Program Team lost one of its specialists at the end of FY 11 to retirement. The four remaining Aftercare Treatment Specialists (ATS) serve the Cleveland, Akron, Toledo and Youngstown offices. The Probation Officer Assistant (POA) assists specialists and providers relative to contract monitoring, invoice verification and the administration of the on-site random drug testing programs (Code-A-Phone). The Aftercare Treatment Team is overseen by a Supervising Pretrial Services and Probation Officer who serves as the liaison between the ATS and management.

Location Monitoring Program

LMP is used as an alternative to incarceration. LMP is utilized as an alternative sanction by the Court, BOP, and the U. S. Parole Commission, to impose a sentence, address violation behavior, or as a pre-release component of the inmate's sentence. Our district uses both RF and GPS for location monitoring. The type of monitoring is either determined by the officer or ordered by the Court.

LMP provides intensive community supervision to offenders 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Offenders' schedules are limited to work, medical appointments, religious services, schooling, and other necessary leaves, unless granted permission by the Court. The district

participates in granting discretionary leave to offenders. Discretionary leave is granted in most cases as long as the person is in compliance with his/her conditions of supervision. The denial of discretionary leave is used as an intermediate sanction to gain/maintain compliance.

During FY 11, the Post Conviction Supervision unit began using a new Transdermal Alcohol Testing device (TAD) to monitor a condition of No Alcohol Usage. TAD is a one-piece alcohol detection device that can be used with or without RF monitoring. The cost for this service is either \$7.15 or \$8.15 daily. The Post Conviction Supervision unit utilized this device on five offenders during FY 11.

The Post Conviction Supervision unit used various levels of GPS technology (Active, Hybrid and Passive) and RF monitoring throughout FY 11. There were a total of 182 cases on location monitoring during FY 11. Due to compliance and landline telephone service issues, some of the offenders were monitored by more than one technology. There were 62 cases monitored via GPS devices (12 Active, 48 Hybrid and 2 Passive). An additional 127 cases were monitored by an RF device. The cost of RF monitoring services was \$3.18 per day. The cost of GPS monitoring varied from \$4.69 to \$8.95 per day.

New Offender Orientation

The goal or purpose of the New Offender Orientation Program is to educate offenders, along with an adult family member and/or significant other, on what to expect while on federal supervision. It is also conducted to give offenders an overview of what is expected of them while on supervision. We focus on open, honest communication with the officers, to facilitate supervision success. Each office conducts the orientation monthly. The approximate hour-long presentation is a Microsoft Power Point that was revamped several years ago to include the following: an introduction/welcome by former Chief Judge James G. Carr; an explanation of how federal supervision is conducted (per Monograph 109) compared to state/county/municipal supervision; a discussion of the standard conditions, special conditions, firearm prohibitions, DNA testing requirements, voting rights, instructions for filing Monthly Supervision Report forms; meeting Court-ordered financial obligations and available additional services, including HIV/AIDS information.

This was the third year that there was an additional presentation by the STAR Forum in Cleveland. This forum is presented during the second hour of the New Offender Orientation Program. It is offered through our partnership with the Northeast Ohio Reentry Coalition (NORC). The program is designed to present information about community resources to the ex-offender population regarding basic needs that can have an adverse impact on their reintegration into the community if not addressed. The forum brings together providers that cover a broad spectrum of services ranging from governmental, community, grass roots and faith-based organizations. Many of these agencies provide targeted services to ex-offenders. Other providers offer services to a group of the general population, to which ex-offenders also belong. Unfortunately, toward the end of the fiscal year, budget and staff cuts at many of the agencies left us without representatives. As such, the STAR Forum

Executive Director describes the various surviving programs and passes out brochures, contact/informational hand-outs, and business cards.

Examples of the needs addressed are Social Security, Veterans' Administration services, child support, children's services, indigent benefits, health care, legal services, education, vocational training, employment assistance, credit counseling, and substance abuse treatment. Organization representatives are given three to five minutes to present an overview of their organization and the services they provide. When the presentations are concluded, time is allotted for individual consultation with offenders. This allows the representatives to arrange appointments, give more detailed information, and address specific issues. This part of the New Offender Orientation Program is open to any offender. A final component of the New Offender Orientation Program is a presentation by our Employment Specialist, who describes some of our Workforce Development initiatives, such as ABLE/GED, Second Chance Act, and Career Development Programs.

Special Offender Program

The district's Special Offender Program was created in 2001 in order to address cases which present community risk issues significantly beyond the issues of a typical general post-conviction supervision case. The district's Special Offender Team expanded to three Special Offender Specialists in 2008. They are located in Cleveland, Akron, and Toledo.

A "special offender" is presumed to have a proclivity toward criminal careers. Generally, special offenders have Criminal History Categories of V or VI, and are predatory, rather than parasitic, criminals. They often perform their criminal acts as part of a larger criminal group.

Special offenders have a history of violence or noncompliant behavior, and include, but are not limited to, members of traditional and nontraditional organized crime, street and prison gangs, major drug or weapons traffickers, habitual career criminals, and sex offenders.

The special offender requires more intensive community-based supervision and risk-control strategies, including field travel during nontraditional work hours. Special Offender Specialists strive to be proactive in the approach to supervising these high-risk offenders.

The philosophy of the Special Offender Program is one that truly reflects those objectives as stated in Monograph 109:

Sentence Execution - ...activities intended to ensure that the offenders remain in compliance with all conditions established by the Court and Parole Commission.

Risk Control Supervision - ...activities intended to detect and deter criminal behavior.

The team often works closely with other local and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as the district's other specialists. Due to the increasing offender population with advanced and complex technological skills, the Special Offender Specialist often teams with the district's Computer Crimes Specialist.

Although the focus of the supervision activities of Special Offender Specialists is on quality, purpose-driven contacts based on risk issues, the special offender also presents a variety of correctional treatment issues. For this reason, the Special Offender Specialists also work closely with ATS within the district to properly address these criminogenic needs. Successful management of special offenders reduces potential risk to the community and benefits the offender or defendant, family members, employers, and others in the offender's community.

DNA Testing

DNA testing continues at the rate of every third month. As most offenders should have submitted a DNA sample with either the arresting agencies or when being processed through the U.S. Marshals Service, cases to be tested are diminishing. Officers are asked to ascertain whether their offenders have submitted a sample, and then to verify with the U.S. Marshals Service.

Specialized Programs

Cleveland Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry Program

The Cleveland STAR Program was patterned after the Toledo Reentry Court Program and is also, therefore, a collaborative approach to successful reentry. The program was designed to increase the opportunity for success of persons on supervised release and is aimed at helping those recently released from custody who are most at risk to violate their conditions of supervision, as determined by factors such as prior criminal history, education, family/peer dynamics, history of substance abuse, violence, housing needs and employment history.

Cleveland's STAR Program is voluntary and has two phases. Phase I involves intensive supervision with each participant's progress monitored and reported at monthly sessions. Generally, participants are required to seek/maintain employment, attend substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, and obey the law. Other special conditions may be pertinent that are particular to the participant. Successful participants must earn twelve monthly rewards. In Phase II, participants are no longer required to attend monthly progress sessions, but remain on general supervision for another six to eighteen months, depending on their original term of supervision. If they complete this period of supervision successfully, they are rewarded with a recommendation for early termination from supervision.

After months of planning and development, a core team was approved and is comprised of the following: a District Judge and two Magistrate Judges, chambers staff, four U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation officers, their supervisors, and other U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office staff, the Assistant Federal Public Defender, the Assistant U.S. Attorney, and service provider representatives. Prospective participants are selected based on set criteria and invited to participate. Each officer is assigned participants. The participants are introduced to the Court and given goals to meet each month. An additional component to the Cleveland program is that each participant receives a vocational assessment to determine skills, interests and barriers to employment. Participants receive non-tangible rewards, such as praise and applause for having a successful month. After three months of successful participation, participants receive a tangible reward, such as gift cards for gasoline and/or Starbucks.

On June 23, 2011, the program concluded its first full year. A graduation ceremony was held for the first Phase I graduates on September 22, following twelve consecutive monthly rewards. On August 8, 2011, the third graduate completed Phase I. Four participants were unsuccessfully terminated from the program, either by continued violation behavior or upon request. Four new participants were added to the program in September, 2011. Graduation ceremonies will be held bi-annually.

Toledo Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry Program

This is the third year of operations for the reentry court program in Toledo. The Court continues to implement evidence based practices--high risk offender population, intensive treatment services, firm/fair approach, model and reinforce anti-criminal attitudes, concrete problem solving, and interpersonal influence--in concerted efforts to reduce recidivism.

This year, nine people successfully completed the "Court phase" of the program that required participants to have twelve successful months of community supervision, in which offender-specific goals were met. On average, participants needed thirteen months to accrue twelve successful months. The average number of treatment sessions attended was 38.25 per participant and the average number of positive drug tests was 0.875. Five participants were removed from the program, most often for new criminal conduct. In this subset of participants, the average length of participation in the "Court phase" was 6.75 months. The average number of treatment sessions was 19.8 and the number of positive drug tests was 2.2.

The Toledo reentry court team participated in a process-improvement seminar at the George Mason University (GMU) in July 2011. From a peer review of the program, recommendations for improvement emerged in several areas: medical and ancillary services, improved participation of service providers, expansion of reentry court to geographical locations removed from the Toledo courthouse, transportation, and employment. Follow-up discussion with the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) and GMU have added the development of an advisory committee for the reentry court. Planning has been initiated to develop an advisory committee comprised of leaders from a variety of

community service agencies to help bridge the gap between treatment needs and available services.

Youngstown Successful Transitions-Accelerated Reentry Program

The Youngstown STAR Program began on September 14, 2011. The program focuses its resources on high risk/high needs cases. Ideally, candidates have an RPI of 6 or higher and a criminal history category of V or VI. The Youngstown STAR Program targets candidates from Trumbull and Mahoning Counties.

When the program began there were two participants. The number of participants grew to six in the following thirty days. In addition to attending monthly STAR meetings at the courthouse, participants are required to attend weekly cognitive restructuring sessions, obtain/maintain employment and attend GED classes, if necessary. In addition, participants must achieve established goals, which are designed to promote an independent/pro-social lifestyle.

Once participants complete twelve successful months in Phase I of the STAR Program (which includes monthly STAR meetings at the courthouse), they are transitioned to regular line supervision (Phase II) for a pre-determined period of time. If participants successfully complete Phase II, this office recommends early termination from to Court.

Three officers supervise participants and one support staff employee covers administrative duties, while a second support staff employee serves as backup. Also, one officer supports the STAR Program with workforce development initiatives.

Defendant/Offender Workforce Development Program

During FY 11, the Northern District of Ohio Defendant/Offender Workforce Development (DOWD) Program expanded existing programs and developed new initiatives to promote literacy achievement, offer vocational training to help increase employment outcomes, and improve job retention among defendants/offenders under supervision. The expansion of the Adult Basic Literacy Education (ABLE)/GED programs is an evidence-based initiative that demonstrates the positive relationship between education and successful reentry.

We have identified approximately 522 post-conviction offenders without a high-school diploma or GED among the Cleveland, Akron, Toledo, and Youngstown offices. By providing direct access and resources for defendants/offenders to increase their literacy levels through on-site ABLE/GED programs, we hope to provide a national model to address the pre and post-conviction educational needs of clients under federal supervision, build a pathway to higher education and/or vocational skills training, and enhance successful reintegration.

I. Cleveland

A. Expansion of the U.S. District Court House ABLE/GED Program

The courthouse GED program expanded literacy services this fall with the addition of a second class. The classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pretrial defendants and members of the community not on supervision are also welcome to attend the program. Recent test results show that our students can be divided into two general groups, with approximately half the class performing at a grade level equivalent to between 3rd through 5th grade, and the other half performing between the 6th through 9th grade level. Providing two classes allows us to accommodate an increase in referrals and separate students according to their aptitude allowing more individualized assistance.

B. Transitional Services Job Training Program

The Second Chance Act Committee announced the first Commercial Driver's License (CDL) transitional services job training program in partnership with Cuyahoga Community College. This 160-hour classroom and hands-on training was held at the Truck Driving Academy in Euclid, Ohio. Four offenders were selected to receive funding from the Second Chance Act Committee and began their job training in August 2011.

C. Career Development/Workforce Readiness - Pilot Program

This in-house program is funded by the Fatherhood Initiative and is designed to create stronger relationships between fathers and their children. Core programming is organized around education/training needs, employment/job readiness, counseling, and fatherhood skills development. The program collaborates with the Cuyahoga Child Support Enforcement Agency, Fatherhood Initiative, and the Cuyahoga County Land Bank. Individuals completing the workforce program develop an Individualized Employment Plan and may be placed in jobs as apprentices to employed laborers that work on housing rehabilitation projects. The program began in September, 2011 and is held on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon for a four-week cycle. On September 29, 2011, six offenders graduated from the program. Following the Career Development class, two participants were offered full-time paid internship opportunities including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification and tools.

D. Entrepreneurship Training - Pilot Program

This in-house program is funded by the Office of Reentry and is facilitated by the Rising Above Program. Core programming is organized around developing business concepts, market research, and assistance in developing individual business plans. The program began in September, 2011, and is held on Tuesdays, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a four-week cycle. On September 27, 2011, five offenders graduated from the program. Following the entrepreneurship class, one participant followed through with his business plan and legitimized his landscaping business.

E. Prepare for Success (Clothing Closet) - all offices

This program continues its mission of assisting federal clients in obtaining and retaining employment and becoming self sufficient, by providing them with proper business attire for job interviewing. Each individual involved with reentry court is provided clothing (suit/sports jacket, tie, shirt, shoes, belt) appropriate for Court proceedings. In FY 11, the Prepare for Success Program provided an additional service of emergency kits for each office. The emergency kits contain undergarments and personal hygiene items for the emergency needs of male and female defendants/offenders.

II. Akron

A. Project Learn

The Akron office partnered with Marquita Mitchell, Program director of Project Learn, to improve the ABLE/GED intake process for defendants/offenders.

B. Summit County Reentry Network

Through the Network, offenders participated in a five-week job group at the Job Center. Reentry resources and employer forums are provided through the Office of Reentry.

III. Toledo

A. Transitional Services Job Training Program

The Toledo office partnered with Owens Community College and are identifying and developing specific employment training programs that will lead to career opportunities. Initial training pilot programs under consideration are the Solar Manufacturing and CDL programs. Owens Community College has agreed to be a part of an Advisory Panel for the Toledo STAR Program.

B. ABLE/GED Program Partnership

An ABLE/GED partnership is being formalized with Owens Community College to establish a referral, attendance, and testing process to the ABLE/GED program at The Source, a community-based service agency.

IV. Youngstown

A. Development of ABLE/GED Program

Through an educational partnership between our Youngstown office and Probation Office and the Choffin Career and Technical Center's Adult Education Program, an on-site GED program was established at the U.S. Courthouse in Youngstown. The program targets defendants/offenders who do not have a high school diploma or GED.

B. Transitional Services Job Training Program

Our Youngstown office is in discussions with the New Castle School of Trades to develop a partnership for transitional job training for entry and mid-level employment opportunities by employers willing to hire individuals with felony criminal backgrounds.

Second Chance Act Program

The Second Chance Act Program is in its second year. We were fortunate to receive additional funding from Congress this fiscal year. The program aims to reduce recidivism and to more effectively mitigate the crisis situations that offenders and defendants often encounter. Funds were used to assist with a multitude of emergency and transitional services.

In August we implemented our first full-scale transitional services program. The district partnered with the Cuyahoga Community College Truck Driving Academy in Euclid, Ohio. The district selected four candidates to participate in their six-week program, which included Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training/certification with a passenger endorsement. The entire cost of the program was paid for using Second Chance Act funding. All four participants completed the training in September and two have passed the practical exam and received their CDL. We will be working closely with Tri-C and other community resources to assist the candidates in securing jobs in the truck driving field. In addition, the program will look to expand transitional services in other areas and include our satellite offices in the coming year.

Mentoring and Cross Training Program

The Mentoring and Cross Training Program was implemented in February, 2011. The program serves to broaden the commitment of the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office to the training and development of new officers. The two primary objectives of the program is to assist in the development of newly-hired and transfer officers and to provide cross training to all interested officers. These goals are accomplished by utilizing a structured set of activities from the New Officer Orientation checklist and Individual Development Plans, which are designed to assist experienced personnel in the development of new officer skills, knowledge, and abilities. The U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office benefits from rapid integration of new officers into the organization while systematically developing the skills and leadership abilities of current staff. The district goal is to implement a process in which successful officers go above and beyond their regular duties to help less-experienced officers succeed.

Access to Law Enforcement Systems

The basic training/certification for ATLAS was held via WebEx/Same Time during February and March 2011. All officers (including supervisory officers) and designated clerical staff were required to attend one of the four day-long sessions. All staff had to pass a certification exam during the training. Passwords to access ATLAS were then provided.

The Northern District of Ohio ATLAS Policy was approved on July 12, 2011, following development of an implementation plan. Active and inactive cases were looked at and it was felt that a gradual phase-in of the case loads would be most beneficial and manageable. In July, as cases were being looked at, the district had 844 pretrial cases, 1,991 active post-conviction cases, 491 inactive post-conviction cases, and the specialists had combined active and inactive cases totaling 496. As the specialists' caseloads amounted to approximately 23 percent of the district total, beginning with their cases would provide a complete sampling of cases throughout the district.

Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System (PACTS)/PSX

In May 2011 efforts began to implement PACTS 6/PSX in the district. This national initiative represents a radical change in how presentence investigations are documented and how presentence reports are prepared. The presentence investigation officers will be using a new version of our PACTS to enter all of the case information, criminal history information, offense level computations, employment history, drug use history, treatment history, and financial information into PACTS through a PACTS module called PSX. The information from PACTS will then populate into a Microsoft Word (MS Word) document, and the officer will add the defendant's personal history/background information, and other case information, to the MS Word document in order to complete the presentence investigation report. An implementation group comprised of six officers was formed to assist with implementing this initiative in the district, and they were the first group to receive training

and become familiar with PACTS 6/PSX. MS Word has been installed throughout the district on all computers in the presentence investigation and Pretrial Services units.

Search and Seizure

Four searches were conducted in FY 11. The first search was on an offender who was on supervision for a previous firearms violation, which was predicated on a new law violation pertaining to marijuana possession. A search of the residence led to the discovery of additional marijuana and the offender was turned over to the U.S. Marshals Service. The second and third searches stemmed from new drug indictments following an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on the offenders who were on supervision and awaiting arrest on the new charges. The U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office Search Team accompanied the FBI to the residences to serve the arrest warrants. One of the wanted offenders was arrested and both residences were searched with no contraband being found. The fourth search conducted was also carried out in connection with a new drug indictment in which the residence searched was not reported by the offender. This search resulted in the apprehension of the offender, along with a handgun and nearly 200 marijuana plants, found in a sophisticated hydroponic growing system.

Search training continued throughout the year with two-day sessions being held in January at a University of Akron vacant fraternity house, in May at a Youngstown State University vacant fraternity house, and in August at Owens Community College in Toledo. The training incorporated tactical entries, third-party considerations, along with officer safety considerations and handcuffing. The Search Team currently consists of fifteen officers, two of which are coordinators. Two officers attended a two-week training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Charleston, South Carolina, where they received additional training in familiarization with new AO standards and policies.

Cybercrime

During FY 11 the district continued with double-digit numbers for monitoring software on pretrial and post-conviction supervision cases. This year we began utilizing Internet Probation and Parole Control to monitor offenders' online activities. Most of these cases were sex offenders. Offenders continue to use social media, most notably Facebook, to associate with one another and commit other violation behavior. One offender, a stalker, utilized public access computers to create a bogus Facebook account to engage in Internet harassment of a corrections employee. The ensuing investigation obtained information from several Internet service providers, which was compared to this offender's GPS coordinates, thereby isolating the unauthorized computer used by the offender. The offender subsequently admitted the violation and his term of supervision was revoked. The district continues to liaison with pertinent groups as needed.

The district held two training sessions that were an overview of cybercrime and sex offender supervision and risk assessment. One of these sessions was conducted by the

Center for Sex Offender Management and was attended by representatives from local and state corrections and law enforcement agencies, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service, in addition to U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office staff.

Scenario-Based Safety Training

On September 8th and 9th of 2011, our office hosted a scenario-based safety training at Camp Ravenna in Ravenna, Ohio. This training was mandatory for all officers and supervisors within the district.

Camp Ravenna is an Ohio Army National Guard military base which includes base housing and provides a realistic setting for the scenarios. Base housing provides an opportunity to use vehicles in the scenarios allowing officers to practice safety tactics while approaching homes. The housing provides a safe atmosphere for officers to practice tactically entering and exiting a dwelling, as well as tactical positioning.

The training was a success for all involved. It was an opportunity for officers to learn new tactical skills and sharpen current safety practices. It also provided officers a safe environment to apply the principles of the Use of Force Continuum. Another positive note was the improvement of existing, and fostering of new relationships, between our office and the other participating agencies.

Firearms

The firearms program started out this fiscal year with a Top Gun Challenge. This event was held at the Summit County Sheriff's Training Facility and consisted of five different shooting challenges that tested each officer's marksmanship, alacrity, agility, and ability to shoot under pressure.

In September, the new district firearms policy was introduced to officers, with opportunities for discussion and questions. Our new policy is more in line with the Director's Regulations for Firearms.

LaserShot training was held at the Akron office on six separate dates. This training provided officers the opportunity to experience five scenarios with varying threat levels.

This past year also brought significant changes to the Firearms Team. The Lead Firearms Instructor stepped down, was replaced, and three assistant instructors were added to the Firearms Team.

Defensive Tactics (DT)

The DT Team is comprised of seven U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation officers. Since training became mandatory in FY 06, officers have been provided incrementally more demanding training. In FY 11, the DT Team certified seventy-three officers in DT, including

instruction on verbal commands, positioning, movement, strikes, transition drills, knife defense, and knife takeaway. Advanced tactics included tackle prevention, response to tackle attempts, ground fighting techniques, and escapes. Recertification in OC spray (also known as pepper spray) was also done at this year's training, certifying sixty-four officers. The OC recertification will continue to be incorporated every other year.

Project Penalty Awareness

Cleveland

During FY 11, Project Penalty Awareness, Northern District of Ohio's federal drug prevention program, continued to partner with the Cleveland Municipal School District in educating 7th through 12th grade students about federal drug trafficking, firearm offenses, and penalties. We recently successfully expanded to the high schools, reaching out to the older students. There were thirty presentations given in the local schools, including the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court, Carrington Youth Academy and Cuyahoga Hills Boys School. In addition, there continued to be several groups of high school students from Cleveland Public and suburban community schools who came into the federal courthouse and were able to experience Project Penalty Awareness in the courtroom. Presenters of this program hail from the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office, but also consist of other members of the U.S. District Court family.

Akron

Five Project Penalty Awareness presenters continued to share the program with Akron area life skills centers and middle and high schools. Some teachers have made the presentations part of their Street Law and other course plans. We enjoy the opportunity to talk with students and teachers about the federal criminal justice and court systems and to challenge students to make solid choices in determining their futures.

Toledo

In the Western Division, the Project Penalty Awareness team is comprised of officers, judges, law clerks, defense attorneys and docket clerks. Approximately ten presentations were conducted at Maumee Public Schools and the Lucas County Juvenile Court in FY 11.

Youngstown

The Youngstown office conducted approximately ten Project Penalty Awareness presentations in FY 11. These presentations were conducted at various venues, including the Youngstown ITT Technical School, the Portage County Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Mahoning County High Schools.

Administrative Services

Personnel

Our staff allocation for FY 11 was 116.9 positions (combined offices). We had 113 employees filling 113 positions (79 officers, two officer assistants, and 32 clerical, automation and administrative staff). The U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office for the Northern District of Ohio has continued to maintain a diverse workforce.

We extended our congratulations and well wishes to a total of seven staff who retired during FY 11.

Training

Staff training continued to focus on areas related to the role of the U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation officer. Major areas of training included safety, firearms certification, DT, CPR, and First Aid. In addition, significant training initiatives included programs related to evidence-based practices and Defendant/Offender Workforce Development. Our staff completed over 6,663 hours of training in FY 11.

Information Technology

Blackberry Upgrades: All officers received new Blackberry Torches (which have a touch screen in addition to the normal keyboard). Officers have also been upgraded to the latest version of PACTS Mobile, which allows them to access offender data on these mobile devices.

PACTS Document Imaging Module (PDIM): The office will soon have scanned all case files into PACTS for all units. In addition to reducing physical file storage space requirements, documents will now be available electronically in the courtroom, at home, in the field, or during Continuity of Operation Plan (COOP) situations.

Phone System Upgrades: The Youngstown Courthouse phone system was upgraded to a new Voice over IP (VoIP) system in February 2011. The new system offers the same expanded functionality as the main Cleveland system. The Toledo U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office also received expanded voice mail capability and its own teleconferencing bridge.

Virtualization Pilot: The Court continues to pursue cost savings by virtualizing file servers and desktop systems. Virtualization allows multiple servers to reside on one physical file server, and also allows multiple desktop systems to reside on a centralized server for easier administration and extending the usability of existing desktop hardware without the need for cyclical replacement.

Web Site - External/Public: The Court completely redesigned its public web site and launched it in January 2011. The new design is easier to navigate, includes search capability and a calendar of all U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office events/programs, and allows for active content management/updates by key Court personnel.

IT Security Assessment: The Court received a comprehensive IT security assessment from an AO Audit Team in January 2011. The overall report was positive, and remaining issues to be addressed were prioritized with a plan for remediation.

Videoconferencing Upgrades: Upgraded videoconferencing equipment and flat-screen monitors were installed in all U.S. Pretrial Services and Probation Office conference rooms in all Court locations in the district. The new systems route internal conferences over the Court's wide area network (the DCN) rather than the public switched network. The Court will also be expanding the use of web cameras for several officers who videoconference from their offices with incarcerated offenders.

Digital Signature Implementation: The Court implemented Co-Sign, which allows supervisors and officers to digitally sign presentence and other reports.

Cybersecurity Training Online: The Court implemented an on-line training course that all staff are required to take annually to keep abreast of the latest security threats and the best practices to secure Court equipment and data.

iPads for All Officers: The Court recently acquired iPad2 devices for all officers. Officers can use the iPads in court, in the field, or at home, to access offender information (PACTS) as well as reports, email, calendars, etc. The devices take full advantage of the office's move toward a paperless environment.

Cleveland Server Room HVAC Upgrade: The Court installed a new cooling system for the main courthouse's server room. The new unit is independent of the existing building system, which has been unreliable.

Notes Server Migration: The Court is migrating its locally-hosted Lotus Notes email server to an off-site facility. This move will eliminate the need for us to administer the server hardware/software here. It will also place our server in a data center that is well protected and harbors multiple redundant hardware, power, and backup systems. The consolidation of all Courts' Notes servers to a central farm will save the Judiciary substantial time and money.

Office Locations and Counties Served

Cleveland Headquarters

Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House
801 West Superior Avenue
Suite 3-100 Probation
Suite 3-202 Pretrial
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1850
216.357.7300 Probation
216.357.7375 Pretrial

Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain

Akron Office

John F. Seiberling Federal
Building & U.S. Courthouse
2 South Main Street
B3-55
Akron, Ohio 44308-1810
330.252.6200 Probation
330.252.6290 Pretrial

Ashland, Carroll, Crawford, Holmes,
Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark,
Summit, Tuscarawas, Wayne

Toledo Office

1946 North 13th Street
Suite 292
Toledo, Ohio 43604
419.213.5800 Probation
419.213.5750 Pretrial

Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Erie,
Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry,
Huron, Lucas, Marion, Mercer, Ottawa,
Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca,
Van Wert, Williams, Wood, Wyandot

Youngstown Office

Thomas D. Lambros Federal
Building & U.S. Courthouse
125 Market Street
Suite 210 Probation
Suite 151 Pretrial
Youngstown, Ohio 44503-1478
330.884.7470 Probation
330.884.7490 Pretrial

Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning,
Trumbull