

Delaware's Adult Boot Camp:

An Update to the 2001 Delaware Adult Boot Camp Study



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Prepared by the
State of Delaware
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Statistical Analysis Center

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Delaware

Authors:
Spencer B. Price
John P. O'Connell Jr.

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2007 Department of Correction Boot Camp Executive Summary

Dave Swayze, Chair
Delaware Sentencing Research
and Evaluation Committee

The following report details the surprising and positive results arising from the latest review of the Department of Correction's Boot Camp Program.

In Delaware, the Boot Camp Program is operated at the Sussex Correctional Center as a separate program, isolated from the normal prison routine. It should be noted that correctional boot camps in general have had a controversial reputation as a rehabilitative program and, as a result, have attracted a disproportionate share of research attention. The National Institute of Justice in 2003 conducted a meta analysis of the body of prison boot camp research, *Correctional Boot Camps: Lessons From a Decade of Research*, and found that only in rare cases have correctional boot camps been shown to reduce recidivism. In fact, it was in part because of these negative findings that over a third of the correctional boot camps have been closed since the peak of their implementation in 1995.

Previously, Delaware's Boot Camp statistics lined up with the disappointing results shared by the rest of the nation. The 2001 Boot Camp study showed that six months after release, 42 percent of the Boot Camp graduates had been re-arrested for the commission of a new crime or a violation of probation. The results after twelve months were no better, amounting to 64 percent of the Boot Camp graduates having been re-arrested. These results were mediocre at best and certainly not what had been desired. It was within this bleak research environment that an updated review of the Delaware Department of Correction Boot Camp Program was undertaken.

Much to our satisfaction though, the latest review has shown promising results indeed. Using the data from the 2001 boot camp study as a baseline for the current review, we found that the change in management in December 2005 has had a significant and beneficial impact on recidivism outcomes.

It was initially noted that things seemed to get worse before they got better. Under the operational conditions just *prior* to December 2005, the recidivism rate had grown even higher than the 2001 baseline, with a 6-month recidivism rate of 45 percent and a 12-month recidivism rate of 74 percent.

However, *after* December 2005 the 6-month recidivism rate took a substantial dive to 28 percent and the 12-month recidivism rate decreased to 55 percent. A closer look at the platoon-by-platoon recidivism rates show an even more positive trend with recidivism rates continuing to decrease as the current Boot Camp Program matures. Moreover, even

the seemingly pernicious probation violation rates, as reported in the *2003 Probation Reform Law's Impact on the Administration of Justice in Delaware* (2005), have experienced a minimum 10 percentage point reduction in recidivism.

While this research presents only a snapshot of a positive change in one of our correctional programs, it does lend credence to the understanding that it is the quality of a given program and not its mere existence that is the crucial factor in reducing recidivism, in rehabilitating offenders and in turn, in making our neighborhoods safer. A key goal of the Sentencing Accountability Commission is the rehabilitation of offenders and results such as these show promise for the future of rehabilitative efforts.

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Delaware's Adult Boot Camp

July 2007

This study is an update to the 2001 Delaware Adult Boot Camp study prepared by the Delaware Statistical Analysis Center.

Boot Camp Background

Title 11 § 6701 of the Delaware Code states that young adults respond positively to short term military-type programs that are set up to restructure their decision making processes and deal with their substance abuse. The law also defines the purposes of the Delaware Boot Camp: *deterrence, cost effectiveness, rehabilitation, and behavior modification*. It provides detail on the duration of stay (six months), states that individuals entering the program should be separated from the rest of the general DOC population, and that the staff should be specially trained to work in this special correctional environment.

According to DOC, the Delaware Boot Camp trains their officers, counselors, supervisors, teachers, and support staff in a "Network" style of management. Network was designed in 1978 and provides methods to improve the life skills and decision making of the cadets, as well as trying to enhance the role of the Boot Camp Corrections Officers. The Network training program is consistent with the social control theory, which emphasizes a bonding between the individual and the conventional norms and values. In this theory *delinquency* occurs when the bond to society is broken. Network is an approach to establishing or regaining this bond to society. To obtain this bond, there are three objectives to reach: *Responsibility for self, Responsibility to others, and Responsibility for the quality of one's life*. In conjunction with the Network training, all security staff at the Boot Camp receives specialized training as drill instructors. This intense two-weeks of training is provided by the Florida Drill Instructor Training Course.

While the Network style of management remains the primary source for training and guidance for Boot Camp staff throughout the timeline of this study, a leadership and management change in the Boot Camp occurred in December of 2005 that emphasized stricter application of the Boot Camp regime with increased accountability to the rules, work, classes and homework. Discipline is now provided for any violation of Boot Camp rules. Another significant change associated with the new leadership was that the length of substance abuse training was increased from a two-month program to a six-month program. As a part of the new management style, the process of Boot Camp 'tune ups' ceased. Boot Camp 'tune ups' were used for Boot Camp graduates that were having difficulty on the intensive probation program that follows Boot Camp. Failing Boot Camp probationers would repeat some of the institutional Boot Camp experience, thus receiving a 'tune up.' These 'tune-ups' were deleted due to a conflict with the current Boot Camp philosophies on the Platoon concept of team and teamwork.

The significant change in Boot Camp management in December of 2005 provided a natural pre-post experiment where it might be expected that the new style of management would produce better results. Steps were taken to provide information for the new regime versus the old as well as studying the Boot Camp program as a whole.

A typical day in the life of a Boot Camp cadet begins with an early wake-up at 5:15 a.m. immediately leading to physical training for about an hour. A morning meal and inspection then takes place prior to setting out for the day. Some cadets may leave for a community service detail while others begin their classroom activities. Lunch is served between 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Lunch is followed by more classroom activities, retreat (lowering of the flag), an evening meal, a session of clearing (a Network activity to discuss how the cadets feel), and finally limited personal time prior to lights out at 9:30 p.m.

Boot Camp Clientele

There are certain types of offenders that Delaware targets for enrollment into the adult Boot Camp. Title 11 Chapter 67 describes the types of offenders and stipulations that apply to these offenders. The law states that any individual, who is convicted of a criminal offense, is 18 years of age, is sentenced to a period of incarceration of 5 years or less, is physically and mentally capable of completing the program, and is a resident of Delaware is eligible for Boot Camp. This law also states that no individual is permitted to participate in the Boot Camp program if he or she is declared a habitual offender under Title 11 § 4214, if the individual is incarcerated at Level V for a violent crime as defined in Title 11 § 6703, or is serving a sentence for a violation of probation where the initial crime was a Class A, B or C Title 11 violent felony.

There are also first offender diversion programs designated by the Boot Camp law to place certain types of offenders into Boot Camp. Possession with intent to deliver illicit drugs (Title 16 §§ 4751 and 4752), drug trafficking (Title 16 § 4753A), and previous convictions of drug sales (Title 16 section 4763) are the types of drug sentences that can be diverted to Boot Camp at the discretion of the judge. There are weight restrictions for the trafficking classification ranging from less than 15 pounds of marijuana, less than 15 grams of cocaine, and less than 100 doses or 15 milligrams if in liquid form of LSD for Boot Camp criteria. Another type of offender that can be diverted to Boot Camp is the burglary 2nd offender. These first time offenders should not have a previous conviction for the crime in which they are being offered first offender Boot Camp status on. The first offender Boot Camp diversion program is set up to provide these offenders who face a minimum mandatory punishment ranging from one to five years at Level V, an opportunity for a much shorter six month sentence.

Boot Camp Summary Statistics

There were a total of 283 admissions provided by the DOC Boot Camp for analysis in this study. These 283 admissions spanned through calendar years 2005 and 2006. These admissions were grouped into ten platoons by the individual start date. Platoon one had the earliest start date of February 16, 2005 and platoon ten had the latest with a November 17, 2006 start date. Out of the 283 admissions, there were 278 distinct individuals. There were five individuals who appeared to have repeat Boot Camp sentences. The details on these five are as follows: One individual was re-sentenced at a later date after working through personal issues at Boot Camp; two individuals were sentenced to Boot Camp on regular charges, and one on a VOP charge, upon graduation these three individuals were re-arrested and consequently sentenced to Boot Camp again on the subsequent VOP; the final individual that repeated Boot Camp was initially sentenced to Boot Camp on a VOP and was returned to the regular DOC population after an altercation with another cadet, but was later re-sentenced to Boot Camp.

There were 269 males and 14 females that occupied these ten platoons. There were 163 black, 105 white, and 15 Hispanics in the 283 admissions. The average age at the start date for the 10 platoons was 23 years. The average age for all Black offenders is 23.2 years with the average age for all white offenders being 22.6 years. All Hispanic offenders had an average age of 27.3 years. Female ages ranged from a minimum of 19 years old to a maximum of 37 years old. Male ages ranged from minimum of 18 years old to a maximum of 47 years old.

The types of crimes resulting in admissions for the 10 platoons are displayed in Table 1. *Other* admission types include several types of property crimes ranging from burglary 3rd to theft. It also includes other types of crimes including, but not limited to aggravated menacing.

Table 1

**Admission Types for 2005 -2006 Boot
Camp Platoons**

| Type | N | % Total |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|
| VOP | 88 | 31.10% |
| Trafficking | 56 | 19.79% |
| PWITD | 55 | 19.43% |
| Burglary 2nd | 53 | 18.73% |
| Other | 31 | 10.95% |
| Total Admissions | 283 | 100.00% |

Boot Camp Graduation Rates

Table 2 lists graduation and age statistics for each of the 10 platoons. There were 220 graduates out of a possible 283. The overall graduation rate was 77.7 percent with a 22.3 percent dropout rate. Platoons 1 and 3 had the highest graduation rates of 100 percent. Platoon 8 had the lowest graduation rate of 78.1 percent, but also had the highest number of starting cadets as well as total number of graduates.

Table 2

2005 & 2006 DOC Boot Camp Graduation Rates

| Platoon | Start Date | # Cadets | # Graduates | % Graduates | # Males | # Females | Min. Age | Max. Age | Average Age in Years |
|---------------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2/16/05 | 21 | 21 | 100.0% | 21 | 0 | 18 | 44 | 22.6 |
| 2 | 4/29/05 | 27 | 25 | 92.6% | 25 | 2 | 18 | 37 | 24.4 |
| 3 | 7/15/05 | 26 | 26 | 100.0% | 24 | 2 | 18 | 47 | 23.3 |
| 4 | 9/30/05 | 25 | 22 | 88.0% | 25 | 0 | 18 | 37 | 23.1 |
| 5 | 12/2/05 | 25 | 22 | 88.0% | 23 | 2 | 18 | 39 | 24 |
| 6 | 2/21/06 | 28 | 22 | 78.6% | 28 | 0 | 18 | 35 | 22.6 |
| 7 | 4/21/06 | 31 | 28 | 90.3% | 29 | 2 | 18 | 37 | 22.4 |
| 8 | 6/30/06 | 41 | 32 | 78.1% | 37 | 4 | 18 | 35 | 23 |
| 9 | 9/8/06 | 27 | 22 | 81.5% | 27 | 0 | 18 | 38 | 23.6 |
| 10* | 11/17/06 | 32 | N/A | N/A | 30 | 2 | 18 | 41 | 23.2 |
| Totals/Avg** | | 251 | 220 | 87.7% | 239 | 12 | 18 | 39 | 23.2 |

* Platoon 10 had not reached a graduation date prior to analysis.

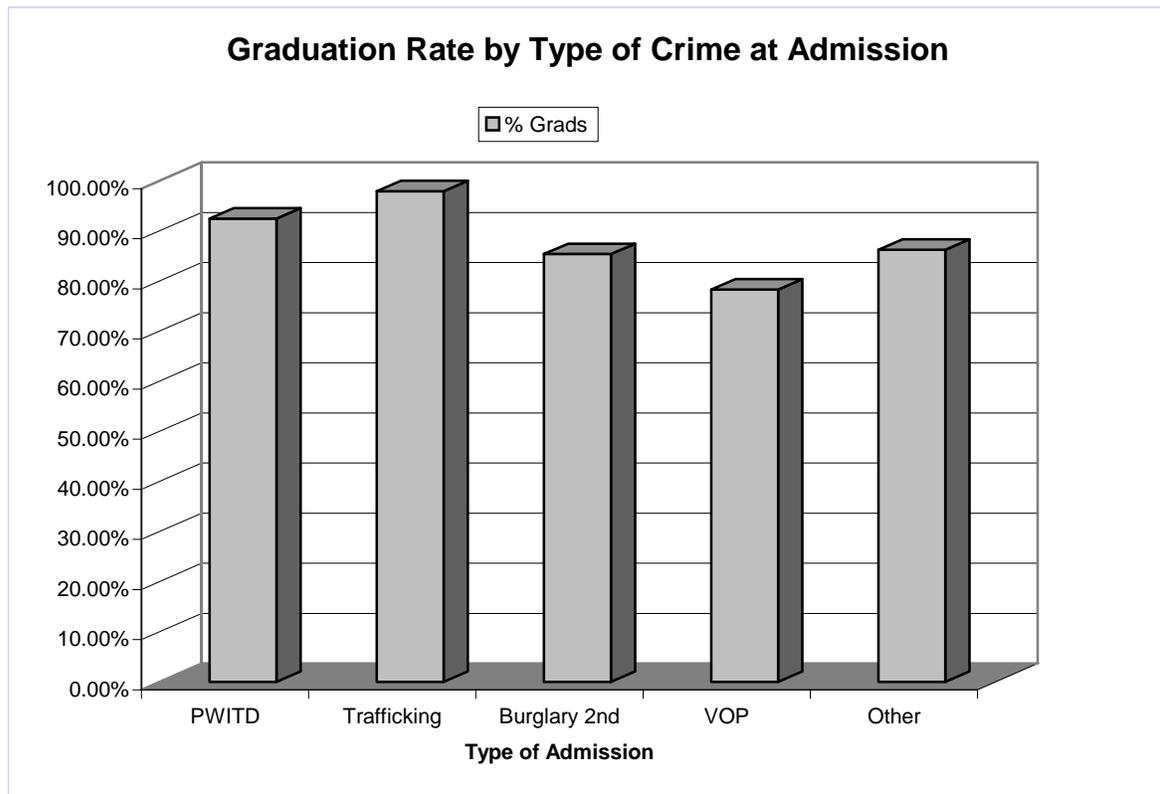
** Totals and Averages exclude Graduates and Graduation percentage for platoon 10.

A closer look at the graduation rates by admission type in Chart 1 shows that drug trafficking and PWITD admissions have the highest graduation rates with 97.9 and 92.5 percent respectively; while VOP and burglary 2nd types of offenders had the lowest graduation rates with 78.1 percent and 85.4 percent. These percentages exclude individuals that had not reached a graduation date at the time of this study (Platoon 10) and were consequently left out of the calculations.

The overall graduation rate from the 2001 Boot Camp study was 73.5 percent. The overall graduation rate for this study is 87.7 percent for platoons 1 through 9. The graduation rate before the management change (platoons 1-4) was 95 percent, while the graduation rate after the December 2005 (platoons 5-9) change was 83 percent. There is a 12-percentage point difference between the old management and the new management. Multiple variables could attribute to this decrease including, but not limited to, the new management style as well as the types of individuals sentenced to the Boot Camp.

The typical diversion offender faces a minimum of one year (burglary 2nd), two years (trafficking), or three years (repeat PWITD) in prison if he or she does not graduate from the six month Boot Camp program. As Chart 1 below shows, a suspended minimum mandatory sentence of two or more years for drug trafficking or PWITD seems to relate to higher graduation rates. The PWITD label in Chart 1 is not labeled 'repeat PWITD' because this category may include a few offenders who did not face the three-year minimum mandatory sentence. Due to non-explicit language in some Superior Court sentence orders involving boot camp diversions, there was no attempt to distinguish between the two categories. It appears that the longer the suspended minimum mandatory sentence is, the higher the graduation rate. For instance, repeat PWITD (the majority of cases under PWITD below) and drug trafficking have the two longest minimum mandatory sentences, and have the highest graduation rates, both exceeding 90 percent.

Chart 1



Arrest History of Boot Camp Admissions

Prior arrest history for the 283 admissions are grouped hierarchically by prior Title 11 (crimes related to personal violence and serious theft), Title 16 (illicit drug selling and trafficking crimes), and Title 21 (motor vehicle offenses) felony arrests as well as prior misdemeanor and violation of probation arrests. While DUI, driving while suspended, and driving after judgment prohibited are included as prior misdemeanor arrests, other Title 21 traffic offenses that are not likely to result in a jail term are not included in this study. Table 3 shows the average prior arrests for the admission by type of crime at admission. VOP admissions had the highest prior Title 11 Felony arrests with 2.9, as well as the highest average total prior arrests with 15.0. PWITD followed closely with 2.1 average Title 11 felony arrests and 13.1 total average prior arrests. Admission groups with the highest drug selling history include trafficking, VOPs, and PWITD. Boot Camp diversion is designed for first time offenders (Title 11 Section 6712). However, the average number of prior arrests for a Boot Camp cadet is 11.3. This arrest rate is very similar to the criminal history of illicit drug sellers in general, which is 10.9 (DeISAC August 11, 2005). The “first time” threshold appears to be related to prior felony arrests, which average 2.5 rather than total arrests.

Table 3

Average Prior Arrests for Admission Types of 2005 - 2006 Boot Camp Classes (Includes Graduates and Non-Graduates)

| Type | Prior Title 11 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 16 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 21 Felony Arrests | Prior Other Arrests (Misd.) | Prior VOP Arrests | Total Prior Arrests |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| PWITD | 2.1 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 8.6 | 1.6 | 13.1 |
| Trafficking | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 6.4 | 0.7 | 9.6 |
| Burglary 2nd | 1.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 6.1 | 1.4 | 9.7 |
| VOP | 2.9 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 8.5 | 2.9 | 15.0 |
| Other | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 6.1 | 1.2 | 9.2 |
| Avg. of All Admissions | 1.9 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 7.1 | 1.6 | 11.3 |

Graduates Versus Non-Graduates

When tables 4 (graduates) and 5 (non-graduates) are compared, it appears that the extent of felony arrest history is associated with not graduating from Boot Camp. Non-graduates tend to have proportionally more felony arrests in their history (2.6) than graduates (1.8).

Table 4

Average Prior Arrests for Admission Types of 2005 - 2006 Boot Camp Classes For Graduates

| Type | Prior Title 11 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 16 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 21 Felony Arrests | Prior Other Arrests (Misd.) | Prior VOP Arrests | Total Prior Arrests |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| PWITD | 1.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 8.3 | 1.6 | 12.4 |
| Trafficking | 1.1 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 6.4 | 0.8 | 9.9 |
| Burglary 2nd | 1.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 6.4 | 1.6 | 10.1 |
| VOP | 2.7 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 8.0 | 2.7 | 14.1 |
| Other | 1.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 6.0 | 1.2 | 9.2 |
| Avg. of All Admissions | 1.8 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 7.0 | 1.6 | 11.1 |

Table 5

Average Prior Arrests for Admission Types of 2005 - 2006 Boot Camp Classes For Non-Graduates

| Type | Prior Title 11 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 16 Felony Arrests | Prior Title 21 Felony Arrests | Prior Other Arrests (Misd.) | Prior VOP Arrests | Total Prior Arrests |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| PWITD | 5.5 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 10.8 | 1.3 | 18.7 |
| Trafficking | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 5.8 | 0.2 | 7.0 |
| Burglary 2nd | 1.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 5.4 | 0.9 | 8.8 |
| VOP | 3.3 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 9.9 | 3.6 | 17.7 |
| Other | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 6.8 | 1.0 | 9.2 |
| Avg. of All Admissions | 2.6 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 7.8 | 1.4 | 12.3 |

Boot Camp Recidivism

The definition of recidivism for this study is any re-arrest following an individual's graduation from Boot Camp. Recidivism was measured at three, six, twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months for each individual. Monitoring for re-arrest did not begin until the graduate was at risk for a new arrest, meaning that the individual was no longer being held in a secure facility (Level V). If an individual was re-arrested within three months of release, that individual is counted in the three month recidivism bin, as well as the six month, twelve month, and so on. The same applies for six month, twelve month, and eighteen month re-arrests. This provides a running total from the earliest possible point of recidivism through each threshold of time that the particular 'at risk group' or platoon has reached. (More information about 'at risk' recidivism can be found in the Technical Notes section of this study.)

Recidivism by Platoon

Table 6 shows recidivism by platoons. As would be expected, the platoons that had greater time ‘at risk’ had a much higher recidivism rate than those that had less time ‘at risk.’ The longer Boot Camp graduates are in the community, the greater the chance that they will be caught breaking the law. For instance when ‘at risk’ for one year, 81 percent of the Platoon 1 graduates had been re-arrested. Two (12 percent) of the 17 graduates were re-arrested for Title 11 felonies, one (6 percent) for a Title 16 felony, three (18 percent) for new misdemeanors, and eleven (65 percent) for VOPs.

There are remarkable recidivism findings in Tables 6 and 7. The recidivism rate has been steadily decreasing from the earliest to the most recent Boot Camp platoon. When Boot Camp graduates have been ‘at risk’ for three months, the Platoon 1 recidivism rate was 33 percent, meaning that one-third had been re-arrested within 90 days of graduation. For the Platoon 9 three month ‘at risk’ threshold, the recidivism rate was only 9 percent. At the six-month threshold, the difference in findings are similar with Platoon 1 having a 62 percent recidivism rate and Platoon 8 (the most recent Platoon that reached or exceeded the six-month ‘at risk’ threshold) having a 16 percent recidivism rate.

Table 6

Cumulative Graduate Recidivism by Platoon Start Dates

| Platoon # | Start Date | # Grads | Recidivism Times | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | 3 Months | 6 Months | 12 Months | 18 Months | 24 Months |
| 1 | 2/16/2005 | 21 | 7 (33%) | 13 (62%) | 17 (81%) | 17 (81%) | 17 |
| 2 | 4/29/2005 | 25 | 4 (16%) | 7 (28%) | 15 (60%) | 17 (68%) | 17 |
| 3 | 7/15/2005 | 26 | 6 (23%) | 13 (50%) | 21 (81%) | 22 | |
| 4 | 9/30/2005 | 22 | 3 (14%) | 9 (41%) | 15 (68%) | 16 | |
| 5 | 12/2/2005 | 22 | 5 (23%) | 8 (36%) | 12 (55%) | 12 | |
| 6 | 2/21/2006 | 22 | 2 (9%) | 6 (27%) | 9 | | |
| 7 | 4/21/2006 | 28 | 3 (11%) | 10 (36%) | 11 | | |
| 8 | 6/30/2006 | 32 | 4 (13%) | 5 (16%) | 5 | | |
| 9 | 9/8/2006 | 22 | 2 (9%) | 2 | | | |
| 10 | 11/17/2006 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

* The shaded cells showing recidivism counts mean that not all individuals in that specific 'Platoon' reached that particular threshold.

Recidivism rates of the New Management Regime (December 2005)

The 2007 Boot Camp study has appeared to capture an important change in program quality that has resulted in a pattern of reduced recidivism. Improved program quality is having a positive impact of reduction in crime, which has a direct affect on public safety. Table 7 compares Platoons from the old management versus the new management at Boot Camp. There are drastic changes in recidivism at both the three and six-month thresholds. The three-month threshold shows a decrease of 8.6 percentage points for recidivism while the six-month threshold shows a decrease of 16.8 percentage points. Only one Platoon had reached the twelve-month threshold under the new management regime at the time of analysis, and that Platoon had a recidivism rate of 55 percent versus the old regimes rate of 72.3 percent. That is a decrease of 17.3 percentage points from the old management regime. Chart 2 further illustrates the difference in recidivism. Moreover, to provide a baseline, the 2001 Boot Camp recidivism rates are shown.

Table 7

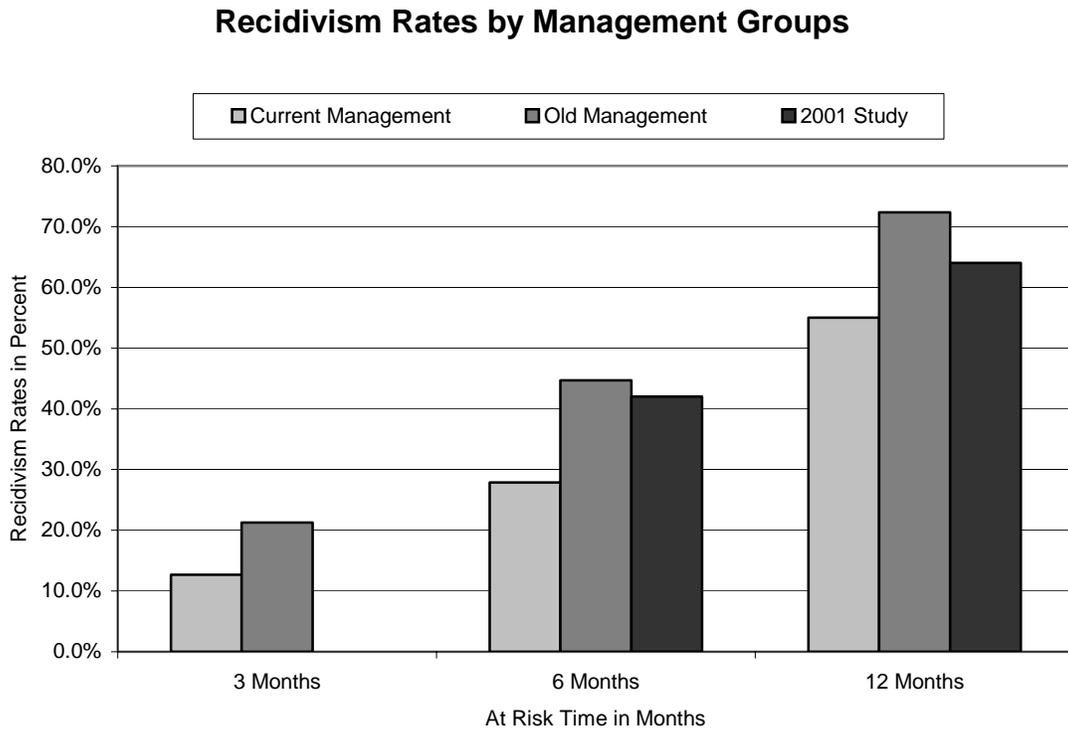
Cumulative Graduate Recidivism by Management Regimes

| Boot Camp Management | Platoon # | Start Date | # Grads | Recidivism Times | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|---------|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | | 3 Months | 6 Months | 12 Months | 18 Months | 24 Months |
| <u>Old Management</u> | 1 | 2/16/2005 | 21 | 7 (33%) | 13 (62%) | 17 (81%) | 17 (81%) | 17 |
| | 2 | 4/29/2005 | 25 | 4 (16%) | 7 (28%) | 15 (60%) | 17 (68%) | 17 |
| | 3 | 7/15/2005 | 26 | 6 (23%) | 13 (50%) | 21 (81%) | 22 | |
| | 4 | 9/30/2005 | 22 | 3 (14%) | 9 (41%) | 15 (68%) | 16 | |
| | Totals/Avg | | 94 | 21.3% | 44.7% | 72.3% | 73.9% | |
| <u>New Management</u> | 5 | 12/2/2005 | 22 | 5 (23%) | 8 (36%) | 12 (55%) | 12 | |
| | 6 | 2/21/2006 | 22 | 2 (9%) | 6 (27%) | 9 | | |
| | 7 | 4/21/2006 | 28 | 3 (11%) | 10 (36%) | 11 | | |
| | 8 | 6/30/2006 | 32 | 4 (13%) | 5 (16%) | 5 | | |
| | 9 | 9/8/2006 | 22 | 2 (9%) | 2 | | | |
| | 10 | 11/17/2006 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| | Totals/Avg | | 126 | 12.7% | 27.9% | 55.0% | | |

* The shaded cells showing recidivism counts mean that not all individuals in that specific 'Platoon' reached that particular threshold, but this is the minimum that will have recidivated within that specific time frame. These numbers are not included in the Totals and Averages.

The explanation of the recent reduction in recidivism appears to be related to the previously mentioned Boot Camp program review and revisions in management that took place in December of 2005. The management revision was centered on the re-establishment of strict Boot Camp policies and procedures. Chart two shows the difference in these recidivism rates between the current and two previous management styles.

Chart 2



The optimum outcome for the Boot Camp program would be for graduation rates to be high with recidivism rates remaining low. Based on early results, the new management style appears to show the best balance of these two rates when compared to the other two management styles. The 2001 Boot Camp study did not use three months as an ‘at risk’ time threshold, and thus there are no results for that management group in Chart 2. When looking at the six and twelve month thresholds, it is shown that the new management regime has much lower recidivism rates than that of the 2001 study and the old management regime. The six-month threshold shows the new regimes recidivism rate at 27 percent while the next closest rate was that of the 2001 study with a rate of 42 percent. The twelve-month threshold is similar with the new regime having the lowest rate at 55 percent followed again by the 2001 report with a rate of 64 percent. The new management regime had a graduation rate of 83 percent, the old had a rate of 95 percent,

and the 2001 management regime had a rate of 73.5 percent. These percentages combined with the previously mentioned recidivism rates show that the new management is having the best overall results. By keeping graduation rates up and recidivism rates down, the new management regime is having the most success out of the three groups compared in this study.

Recidivism by Admission Type

Table 8 below shows percentages to date for recidivism by crime type at admission into Boot Camp. This table measures preliminary recidivism rates that do not specifically control for time ‘at risk.’ The results are indicative of comparable recidivism rates because the “average at risk” periods are about the same for each admission type. Similar to the graduation rates, those offenders facing the longest suspended mandatory sentence, i.e., repeat PWITD at three years and drug trafficking at two years, to date, have the lowest recidivism rates. Criminal history is usually a major determinant for recidivism rates, but it appears to play a limited role compared to the length of the suspended minimum mandatory sentence length. Avoiding long prison terms appears to help motivate some offenders to lead a more law-abiding life.

Table 8

Cumulative Graduate Recidivism by Admission Type

| Admission Type | # Grads | # Recid | % Recid |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Burglary 2nd | 35 | 25 | 71% |
| VOP | 64 | 36 | 56% |
| Other | 25 | 13 | 52% |
| PWITD | 49 | 21 | 43% |
| Trafficking | 47 | 16 | 34% |
| Totals | 220 | 111 | 50.5% |

Comparison to Other Offenders Released in Delaware

A matched comparison group was not developed for this study. The cost of selecting, verifying and correcting electronic correctional data exceeds the available resources and priority of this study. However, there is a recent correctional study, *The First Year Assessment of the 2003 Probation Reform Law’s Impact on the Administration of Justice in Delaware* (January, 2005), that included recidivism analysis that provides a reasonable comparison for the DOC Boot Camp. Bear in mind that these recidivism results are not strictly comparable because gender, age, and prior criminal history, all of which are known correlates to recidivism, are not controlled for.

The 2003 Probation Reform Act study showed that one year following placement 65 percent of the Level III probationers had been rearrested, violated their probation, and were reconvicted in Superior Court. Furthermore, the study showed that about 75 percent of the Level IV (VOP Centers, Work Release, and Home Confinement) probationers had recidivated within one year of release, and 62 percent of the offenders that had served jail time (sentences less than or equal to one year) had recidivated.

When the Boot Camp recidivism rates are compared to the 2003 Probation Reform Act findings, the results are mixed. The 'new' 2006 Boot Camp management has the lowest one-year recidivism rate of 55 percent. This shows improvement over the previously mentioned 62 to 75 percent recidivism range for other Department of Correction release groups. However, the 'old' Boot Camp management regime had a one-year recidivism rate of 72 percent and the original 2001 Boot Camp baseline had a one-year rate of 64 percent. These rates are more consistent with the range of rates in the 2003 Probation Reform Act and do show an improvement over what might be expected.

This conclusion, however, needs to take into account that the 2003 Probation Reform Act study only counts the re-arrest or violation of probation as recidivism if it results in a subsequent Superior Court conviction. This does not happen in all cases and if Boot Camp arrests and violations were followed to Superior Court disposition, the Boot Camp recidivism rates may appear even better, particularly for the 'new' 2006 Boot Camp management results.

Technical Notes

Recidivism by At Risk Date

Table 9 below, shows recidivism by ‘at risk groups.’ This table groups graduates according to the amount of time they had ‘at risk.’ This ‘at risk’ time calculation is described in previous sections. Platoons 1 through 5 had a longer period of time to recidivate than platoons 6 through 9. Thus, platoons 1 through 5 have a higher opportunity to recidivate than platoons 6 through 9. In Table 9, the recidivism numbers start at the three-month time threshold and continue to build as each group or platoon passes a new threshold of time. For example, in the first at risk group (8/2005-12/2005) there are 11 graduates, or 24 percent, that recidivated in three months or less. However, in the six-month recidivism bin, there are twenty graduates that recidivated. Therefore, the total number of recidivists in the three month bin is 11 and 20 in the six month bin equaling a difference of 9 more graduates that recidivated between three and six months. This measure of recidivism remains consistent through the entire table.

Table 9

Cumulative Graduate Recidivism by At Risk Dates

| At Risk Groups | Platoons | # Grads | <u>Recidivism Times</u> | | | | | Non Recids |
|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | | | 3 Months | 6 Months | 12 Months | 18 Months | 24 Months | |
| 8/2005-12/2005 | 1(20); 2 | 45 | 11 (24%) | 20 (44%) | 31 (69%) | 33 (73%) | 33 | 12 |
| 1/2006-6/2006 | 1(1); 3; 4; 5 | 71 | 14 (20%) | 30 (42%) | 49 (69%) | 51 | | 20 |
| 8/2006-12/2006 | 6; 7; 8 | 82 | 9 (11%) | 21 (26%) | 25 | | | 57 |
| 3/2007-6/2007 | 9 | 22 | 2 (9%) | 2 | | | | 20 |
| Totals* | | 220 | 36 | 71 | 80 | 33 | N/A | 109 |

* The shaded cells under the various times mean that not all individuals in that specific 'At Risk Group' reached that particular threshold. the number in the shaded cells represents the minimum number of individuals that will recidivate with an opportunity to increase as the individuals meet the time criteria for that threshold. The shaded cells are not included in the Totals because of this.