

GUEST EDITORIAL

Welcome the New Director of ACA's Standards and Accreditation Department

By David Haasenritter



During the last 28 years, Army Corrections has gone through many changes, including reduction in facilities, new facilities, budget cuts, changing offender population, new laws and national correctional issues. In 1990, I started my first assignment in Army Corrections at the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB), which, at the time, was the only Army facility accredited by ACA. Through the vision, hard work and dedication of the soldiers, civilians, contractors and volunteers, Army Corrections has been awarded the Golden Eagle Award for all of its correctional facilities, academy, parole board and central office being ACA accredited; and the Lucy Webb Hayes Award for all of its facilities being ACA accredited and PREA certified. Facilities

and agencies that maintain ACA and PREA national standards are safer for staff and inmates, operate more efficiently and provide inmates with a more successful transition back to society as productive citizens. Since 1870, ACA has had a significant place in the history of Army Corrections and its services, and their programs have made a major impact on Army Corrections.

I am honored and humbled to be selected as the director of the ACA Standards and Accreditation Department. It is one of two dream jobs I wanted when I started thinking about life after my active duty military career. The last 36 years, both as a soldier (22 years) and an Army civilian (14 years), have been both challenging and rewarding. Roberto Clemente once said, "Baseball has been very good to me." Well the Army has been very good to me. It was a bittersweet decision to leave the Army, but it is time to start a new chapter in my life.

ACA has a significant place in the history of prison reform. I was first introduced to ACA and the ACA accreditation process in 1989 by Dr. Joann Morton. At that time,

I was immediately told that every correctional agency, institution and program should be ACA accredited. Accreditation is one of my deep passions and I talk about the importance and benefits of ACA accreditation every chance I get. When people asked me, "Why accreditation?" I provided them a few reasons and then asked, "Why not?" and "What are you afraid of?" I am proud, not only to have been a contributor to the accreditation of the Army Corrections' system, but also as an ACA auditor and a strong supporter of every aspect of the ACA accreditation process. Now as I transition to ACA, I will have the opportunity to continue making an impact on the corrections profession. This is going to be one of the biggest challenges I have experienced.

I believe my work in Army Corrections, as well as my experience as an ACA auditor and a Committee on Performance-Based Standards member, have given me a good base to be the director of the Standards and Accreditation Department. ACA has some great previous directors, and I hope I can be as significant as they were in improving

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our field and providing a service to all adult and juvenile detention and correctional facilities, community corrections programs, training academies, probation agencies and parole boards.

My role is to ensure that we have firmly implemented the changes, reviewed and evaluated the changes, and laid the foundation to address current and future challenges.

In the last few years, the ACA Standards and Accreditation Department and the ACA accreditation process have been through meaningful changes: restrictive housing, the transition from standards to expected practices, the 2017 Manual of Accreditation Policy and Procedure and conducting PREA audits are just few of the changes and on-going actions. All of these have and/or will improve the accreditation process and make our profession better. My role is to ensure that we have firmly implemented the changes, reviewed and evaluated the changes and laid the foundation to address current and

future challenges. We will continue to build on that foundation to improve the accreditation process and to measure ourselves against national standards. We will provide a road-map for correctional agencies and institutions to enable them to operate safely and securely, and to achieve best practices.

We will be working on key areas, such as updating all standards manuals and converting them to performance-based standards; promoting the ACA accreditation process and increasing the number of correctional agencies, institutions and programs seeking ACA accreditation; ensuring the integrity of the standards and accreditation process; providing timely and consistent services to the field, Commission on Accreditation and the Committee on Performance-Based Standards; and converting standards manuals from print to digital. I look forward to working with the field, the Commission on Accreditation, the Committee on Performance-Based Standards and ACA staff during my time as the director of Standards and Accreditation Department. Through collaboration, we can improve our profession.

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David Kaleolani Haasenritter is the director of ACA Standards and Accreditation Department. Prior to joining ACA in September, he spent 36 years in the Army as a soldier

and civilian. He has served on numerous ACA committees including the ACA Committee on Performance-Based Standards.

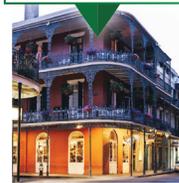
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Winter Conferences

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BOSTON 2019



149TH

Aug. 7-11

CINCINNATI 2020



150TH

Aug. 13-17

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 2021



151ST

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