



As a supervisor, Captain Karen Dow does many different things at the Norton Correctional Facility, including checking the prison grounds (left) and walking the perimeter, maintaining the security of the facility, and, of course, paperwork (above). — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

correctional facility captain

“In a supervisory position I have a lot of responsibilities,” she said. “All of the staff, inmates and anyone else out there like volunteers and contractors, I’m responsible for.”

“I’m also responsible for the security of the facility and public safety. We go over that and see that every day — public safety is always a top priority. I have to make sure my staff members are doing their duties, so there is no breach. We’re constantly checking for escape routes for the inmates.”

One of the best things about working out there, she said, is when all of your training comes together in emergency preparedness procedures.

As a captain, or a Corrections Specialist III, she is under the major, which would be the next step up. She is the only female captain at the moment.

“It’s a huge accomplishment for me,” she said. “There’s been one other female captain and she’s been retired for awhile now. She was one of my role models.”

“It could be my best accomplishment. I’m content where I’m at.”

Another good thing, she said, is that they have started a mentoring program for the new officers. She is one of the chairmen on the committee. It’s a good program, she said, and helps the new staff to get adjusted.

Capt. Dow also likes to sit on interview boards for promotions and has been involved with special committees, one of which was coordinated with other correctional facilities in the state that changed the style and appearance of the officers’ uniforms.

“I really love the work involved with being a corrections officer,” she said. “Working with the staff as a team and doing what needs to be done are very rewarding.”

“The job teaches everyone about themselves, about the accomplishments within yourself and the pride that comes with it. It’s about being a role model, not just to the staff, but also to the inmates.”

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BACK ROW: Janie Foley, Pam Harper, Norma Jean Wilhite, Mary Herring, Gloria DeWitt; **FRONT ROW:** Bridgette Shearer, Souk Saechao, Cheryl Farr, Becky Graham, and Crystal Franco.



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