
what's up doc?



by Dr. Mary Livers

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Hello, Everyone:

I feel like I've been here a month this week, and I've only been here three days. I took advantage of the good long weekend and took Monday off. That seems like a year ago.

I know I have not said much about the budget situation and the impact on OJJ – there's been a good reason for that. Changes to our budget were literally being made as late as Monday of this week. I really did not want to put anything out without it being in the officially proposed executive budget, that's not something you can get out in front of. So, I know you are all anxious to hear about what our budget might look like for next year. In a few minutes I will send you a letter that summarizes the changes that will occur as a result of the budget process.

We realize this may mean having to do layoffs. We are targeted to lose 58 positions statewide. You will be told and given this information, and every effort will be made to see if there are any vacant positions within OJJ that you may be qualified for. These are very hard times and I'm sure you have seen where other agencies are laying off even larger numbers. I wish I had better news, but that's where we are.

So, here's what I need everybody to do. I ask you to do this for the good of the mission. Please stay focused on your work. I know it's hard to stay hooked up when you are wondering if you are one of those people who might get a pink slip. Try to put those thoughts away, and if you have a need to worry, you will find out soon enough. Don't dwell on it now.

In the meantime, we all have a job to do and I know I can count on everyone to continue to give 100 percent of your efforts, because that is your character. I am proud of you and the work you do. Keep the FAITH.

On another note, please keep the people affected by yesterday's tsunami in the Pacific Ocean in your thoughts and prayers. As you may be aware, Japan suffered its strongest earthquake in recorded history, and it spawned a tsunami that reached 33 feet in height and has devastated parts of Japan. It was also felt in Hawaii, California, Oregon and Alaska. And that's on top of the flooding and the damage we suffered here in Louisiana after the torrential rains early this week.

So, as we close this week, I again ask you all to weather this storm as you always do – with resolve and the dedication to always meet the mission, no matter what the news brings. One day at a time!

Sincerely,
"Doc"

Dr. Mary Livers

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