



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MDOC Audit Team Commends Wilkinson County Correctional Center Operation**

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Jackson—A twenty-five member audit team from the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) has completed their findings of a review of the Wilkinson County Correctional Center (WCCF) in Woodville, Miss. The team concluded that the correctional staff and management of the private prison “are to be commended on their overall appearance and professional attitude toward their jobs.”

“This auditing tool developed by MDOC and Private Prison facility employees is designed to ensure that state laws and policies and procedures related to the care, custody and control of inmates are being properly applied,” said MDOC Deputy Commissioner of Institutions Chris Epps. “The audits provide Private Prison facilities an opportunity to continually evaluate and maintain accreditation standards and will provide MDOC’s three prison facilities a pre-evaluation of standards as we move towards full accreditation.”

The auditing team gave high marks to the Wilkinson County Correctional Center’s overall compliance in all major categories, including:

- Administration and Information Systems and Research;
- Fiscal Management;
- Personnel;
- Training and Staff Development;
- Records & Reception and Orientation & Release;
- Citizen Involvement and Volunteer & Religious Programs;
- Building and Safety Codes & Safety and Emergency Procedures & Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Earned Time & Classification & Rules and Discipline’
- Security and Control;

(more)

- Special Management;
- Inmate Rights;
- Food Services;
- Health Care;
- Social Services & Academic and Vocational Education & Library & Recreation and Activities;
- Work and Correctional Industries; and
- Mail, Telephone, and Visiting;

The report adds, “Warden Waller obviously takes personal pride in his chosen field, and the results are obvious. The Wilkinson County Correctional Center is an exceptional facility thanks to his and his administrative staff’s efforts.”

The Wilkinson County Correctional Facility opened in January of 1998 and received American Correctional Association Accreditation in March 1999. The facility has a capacity of 900 and houses 874 state inmates as of May 3, 2001.

“This audit is absolutely useful to our prison,” said WCCF Warden Dolan Waller. “The Mississippi Department of Corrections ought to be commended for creating a tool that not only applies to their facilities but to private facilities. This auditing tool helps provide some consistency throughout the correctional system in Mississippi so that all of us who house state inmates can be on the same page when it comes to the care, custody and control of these inmates.”

An audit team recently completed a review of the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs, Miss. A separate audit team will visit the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, Miss. in two weeks.

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