



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MDOC Working To Obtain Accreditation of Institutions and Community Corrections**

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Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) is moving forward with plans to obtain American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation for Institutions and Community Corrections. MDOC Commissioner Robert Johnson has set an accreditation deadline of September 1, 2002 for the three state prisons and an accreditation deadline of October 1, 2002 for all Community Corrections functions, which includes Probation, Parole, the Intensive Supervision Programs and Community Work Centers.

“I believe in the professionalism of MDOC staff and that accreditation, however difficult, can be achieved,” said Commissioner Johnson. “I refuse to accept that MDOC cannot obtain ACA Accreditation because of the age and condition of its facilities. My review of other states, Tennessee and Arkansas included, indicate facilities as old or older than our own, have obtained accreditation.”

To obtain ACA Accreditation is a rigorous process. It signifies compliance with national standards in correctional operation and management and focuses on the policies and procedures related to correctional services, programs, administrative and fiscal controls, staff training and development, physical plant, safety and emergency procedures, sanitation, food service, rules and discipline. ACA Accreditation is achieved through a series of reviews, evaluations, surveys and audits.

“Mississippi requires that all Private and Regional Prison facilities obtain ACA Accreditation within fourteen months of opening,” said Commissioner Johnson. “MDOC should be as accountable in obtaining this same accreditation and I fully expect that as a team MDOC staff will be able to achieve this prestigious designation.

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