



PRESS Announcement

MS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS *723 N. PRESIDENT ST. *JACKSON, MS 39202 *(601)359-5600 *(FAX: 5738)

Date: May 21, 2001
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South Mississippi Correctional Institution to receive American Correctional Association Audit Score Wednesday, May 22

The South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) will find out Wednesday, May 22 if they will be recommended for accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA). An ACA Audit Team has spent three days at the Leakesville, Mississippi prison looking over policies and procedures, facility conditions and talking with MDOC staff and inmates.

The media is invited to be present for the announcement by the ACA Auditing Team. The score for SMCI's audit will be announced at 2:00 p.m. at SMCI. Media interested in covering the announcement are asked to be at the institution by 1:45 p.m.

Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson has set an accreditation deadline of September 1, 2002 for the state's three 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. Mississippi requires that all Private and County Regional prison facilities obtain ACA Accreditation within fourteen months of opening. Commissioner Johnson believes MDOC should be as accountable in obtaining this same accreditation and believes as a team MDOC staff will be able to achieve this prestigious designation.

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When: Wednesday, May 22, 2001
Where: South Mississippi Correctional Institution, Leakesville, Mississippi
Time: 2:00 p.m. – Media requested to be at the prison by 1:45 p.m.

Directions: Head east on US-98 just south of Hattiesburg approximately 35 miles. You will see a sign on the left hand side of the highway that reads Leakesville, this is State Road 57. Turn left on to State Road 57 until you arrive at the Chevron and turn left immediately in front of the Chevron. Drive approximately 3 miles and you will see the front entrance of the prison on the left.