



PRESS RELEASE

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MDOC Arrests Two Correctional Officers For Illegal Drugs and Contraband

Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today announced the arrests of two Correctional Officers investigated for bringing contraband into the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss. Correctional Officer Melvin Buchanan of Mound Bayou, Miss., and Correctional Officer James Lunsford, Jr. of Cleveland, Miss., have been placed on administrative leave without pay pending the final outcome of the cases.

“I will not tolerate the intentional abuse and violation of correctional policy and procedure by any MDOC staff member,” said MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. “We will be aggressive in our investigations of staff who by their abuse potentially disrupts the integrity and safety of the correctional system and public safety.”

Correctional Officer Melvin Buchanan was arrested June 11 in the parking lot of Unit 32 at MSP as he was reporting for work. He was charged with introduction of contraband (money) and possession of marijuana on penitentiary grounds. Investigators believe Buchanan was conspiring with an inmate and his girlfriend to bring the marijuana into the prison. The inmates girlfriend, Emma Davis of Shaw, Miss., was arrested June 12 and charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana). The inmate, Michael Carr, who is serving a five-year sentence for grand larceny in Lamar County and two seven-year sentences for uttering forgery in Jeff Davis County, will be formally charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana) and have an initial appearance before a Judge next week.

In a separate investigation, Correctional Officer James Lunsford, Jr., turned himself June 16 to the Cleveland Police Department after learning a warrant had been issued for his arrest on a charge of conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana) into the institution. Investigators believe Lunsford was conspiring with an inmate and his girlfriend.

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The inmates girlfriend, Willie Mae Fizer of Shaw, Miss., was arrested June 15 and charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana). The inmate, Henry Lee Green will be formally charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana) and have an initial appearance before a Judge next week. Green is serving a two-year sentence for possession of a controlled substance in Sunflower County, a twenty-year sentence for armed robbery in Washington County and a thirty-eight year sentence for armed robbery in Bolivar County.

These arrests are a part of MDOC's continuous effort to stop the introduction of illegal contraband & drugs being brought in to the prison system.

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