



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson...Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert L. Johnson today introduced newly appointed Superintendent Lawrence Kelly to members of the media. Kelly's appointment as Superintendent of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility (CMCF) becomes effective June 1.

Commissioner Johnson stated, "MDOC is extremely fortunate to have a person with Mr. Kelly's credentials to advance the agency's efforts to gain full American Correctional Association (ACA) accreditation."

Kelly is currently Warden over Security at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman, Mississippi. The 41-year old Clarksdale native began his career in corrections in 1982 as an MDOC Correctional Officer. He has held the rank of Correctional Administrator, Correctional Staff Development Specialist and Director of the MDOC Correctional Training Academy. Kelly also worked for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety overseeing law enforcement training academy accreditation and certification programs.

Superintendent Kelly stated, "As my first priority, I intend to wholeheartedly pursue ACA accreditation at CMCF. We will begin this process by conducting an initial assessment to determine our status and develop a plan of action to facilitate our efforts to gain full ACA accreditation."

CMCF, located in Rankin County near Pearl, Mississippi, the State's second largest public prison, has the capacity to confine 3,049 prisoners. It currently houses 2,974 offenders. CMCF III, a 740-bed unit for special needs offenders at the prison, was presented ACA's highly coveted accreditation award in January and marked the first time an MDOC facility had received this signal honor.

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MEDIA NOTE: The MDOC has digital photos of Superintendent Kelly. If you are interested in receiving a photo, please call Bill Greenleaf at (601) 359-5646 or e-mail him at Bgreenleaf@mdoc.state.ms.us.