



PRESS RELEASE

MS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS *723 N. PRESIDENT ST. *JACKSON, MS 39202 * (601) 359-5600 * FAX: 5624)

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Contact: Claire Papizan
Phone: (601) 359-5689
Fax: (601) 359-5738

Lawrence Kelly and Emmitt Sparkman Named Superintendents at CMCF and MSP

Jackson—Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Robert Johnson today announced the appointment of Lawrence Kelly as Superintendent of the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County and Emmitt Sparkman as Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman. Both Kelly and Sparkman will begin as Superintendent on June 1, 2001.

“Both of these men have extensive backgrounds in corrections that will enhance the operations of both prison facilities,” said Commissioner Johnson. “I believe their experience, knowledge and professionalism will also assist MDOC in obtaining ACA Accreditation for these two facilities by the fall of next year.”

Lawrence Kelly, 41, is currently the Warden of Security at the Mississippi State Penitentiary (MSP), a position he began serving in September of 2000. Kelly has served 19 years in corrections and public safety, beginning his career 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.

“It’s a tremendous challenge and a wonderful opportunity for me to continue my career within the correctional system, particularly at a time when the department is working toward the monumental task of achieving ACA Accreditation for all of its facilities,” said Lawrence Kelly.

Kelly, a Clarksdale native, received his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Delta State University. He is a graduate of the National Academy of Corrections Correctional Supervision Course, the F.B.I.’s Special Weapons and Tactics School, and the NRA’s Firearms Instructor School. Kelly was also appointed as a member of the U.S. Attorney General’s Crime Task Force.

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Emmitt Sparkman, 44, is currently Warden at the Marshall County Correctional Facility in Holly Springs, a position he began serving in September of 1996. Sparkman has served 25 years in corrections, beginning his career in 1975 as a Correctional Officer for the Texas Department of Corrections (TDOC). He has worked in state correctional systems for 19 years, both in Texas and Kentucky, overseeing education programs, security, and directing the daily operation of three separate maximum security institutions with populations ranging from 1,000 to 2,500 inmates. He has served as an Education Consultant, Captain, Major, and Adult Probation Officer, as well as an Intake Supervisor and Director of a Juvenile Detention Center. In addition, Sparkman has worked seven years for private correctional corporations as Security Director, Facility Director and Warden.

“I’m very excited about the challenge,” said Emmitt Sparkman. “I have been working with accredited facilities since 1992 and am excited about being involved with the ACA process with the Mississippi Department of Corrections. ACA Accreditation brings facilities to the next level of excellence and ensures a safe working environment for employees and safe living environment for inmates while continuing to ensure public safety.”

Sparkman, an Alto, Texas native, received his bachelor’s degree in criminology at Sam Houston State University and his master’s degree in criminal justice at Eastern Kentucky University. He was named “Warden of the Year” by Wackenhut Corrections Corporation in 1997 and as “Education Consultant of the Year” by the Texas Department of Corrections in 1981.

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