



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 4, 2017
Contact: Office of Communications
Phone: (601) 359-5608, 359-5689, 359-5289
E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

Half of MDOC Facilities Searched under O.Z.T.

JACKSON – With the latest major shakedown at Jefferson County Regional Correctional Facility in Fayette, the Mississippi Department of Corrections now has searched half of the facilities in the prison system under Operation Zero Tolerance.

Officers saw an unexpected, yet common, sight in corrections during the latest shakedown – a bag of contraband falling from an inmate’s body cavity –Thursday.

The overall search of the inmates and the facility itself otherwise yielded what MDOC officials consider an average amount of contraband for a facility its size and its role. The facility, one of 15 regionals in the state, serves as a work site for Mississippi Prison Industries Corp. (MPIC) and holds 279 inmates, one short of the maximum number.

Aside from the bag of suspected drugs hidden on the inmate, officers’ find also included 24 cellphones, 26 cellphone chargers, 42 pairs of earbuds, nine MP3 players, five handheld radios, 1 Android tablet, six power packs, six cellphone batteries, free world clothing, and five-plus bags of marijuana, spice, and tobacco.

Last week, Harrison and George Counties Communities Work Centers (CWC) were searched on July 26 and July 27, respectively. Several inmates at George County CWC were cited for rule violations as a result of the seizure of contraband, including 9 cellphones, 23 chargers, \$268 in cash, tobacco, and hydrocodone tablets.

“Now that we have reached the halfway mark in the number of facilities searched, these shakedowns have been revealing in some cases,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “For instance, they have reaffirmed to us the lengths in which inmates will go to hide contraband. They also have shown us, among other things, which facility is and is not practicing zero tolerance.”

The remainder of the 36 facilities will be searched in the coming months, Hall said. She began the shakedowns in early March to slow the flow of contraband for the safety of staff and inmates.

Other shakedowns have occurred at Chickasaw County Regional Correctional Facility, Alcorn County Regional Correctional Facility, Winston-Choctaw County Regional Correctional Facility, Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility, Washington County Regional Correctional Facility, Stone County Regional Correctional Facility, George County Correctional Facility, South Mississippi Correctional Institution, Hinds County Restitution Center, Carroll-Montgomery County Regional Correctional Facility, Wilkinson County Correctional Facility, East Mississippi Correctional Facility, Marshall County Correctional Facility, Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, and Holmes-Humphreys County Regional Correctional Facility.