

# IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Issaquena Regional Inmates Receive Unexpected Wake-up Call**

JACKSON – Sleeping inmates at the Issaquena County Correctional Facility in Mayersville received an unexpected visit early Wednesday morning from officers with the Mississippi Department of Corrections looking for contraband, and the officers did not leave empty handed.

Officers found 15 cellphones, several cellphone chargers, 23 bags of tobacco, 50 small packs of marijuana, three small packs of crystal methamphetamine or ice, four bags of spice, two shanks, one pocket knife and an assortment of other contraband, including cigarettes, cigarette lighters, radios, and MP3 players.

Some of the contraband was found on the inmates and inside mattresses, pillows and other locations on the inmates' bunks. A pair of flip-flop shoes appeared to have been altered to hide a cellphone in each sole.

“While this facility, which was at capacity with 274 inmates, does not rank among those with an excessive amount of contraband, it shows that there is still work to be done,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “By the time we complete all the facilities, I hope we will see less and less contraband because Operation Zero Tolerance is not going away.”

Issaquena is the 19<sup>th</sup> shakedown of 36 facilities in the prison system. Commissioner Hall began the shakedowns in early March to slow the flow of contraband for the safety of staff and inmates.

Other shakedowns have occurred at Jefferson County Regional Correctional Facility, Harrison County Community Work Center, George County Community Work Center, 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.