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MDOC CONDUCTS BACK-TO-BACK SHAKEDOWNS

JACKSON – A surprise shakedown at East Mississippi Correctional Facility (EMCF) today netted more cell phones, shanks, drugs and other contraband but not as much as a similar search the previous day at another prison.

In addition to the usual type contraband, one inmate was found with 400 packages of Ramen noodles in his cell – a good indicator that commissary items are being used for personal gain.

Several wooden bats, a radio transmitter, and bags of spice and crystal methamphetamine also were among the confiscated items.

All facilities will be searched under a system wide contraband crackdown Interim Commissioner Pelicia Hall has ordered. Wilkinson County Correctional Facility in Woodville was searched on Thursday morning.

“The removal of any contraband, regardless of the amount, is successful,” Hall said. “I am pleased that we did not find an excessive amount of contraband at East, but any amount is too much.”

The security sweep is the second at East in recent days. MDOC officials searched a specific section of the facility after learning of an inmate posting live on Facebook last weekend. That inmate and two others involved are facing disciplinary action.

Hall said she appreciates the work of all officers involved in the shakedowns.

EMCF, which is located near Meridian in Lauderdale County, is one of the state’s three private prisons. It can hold up to 1,500 inmates. Its population on Friday was 1,144.

Privileges, including visitation, commissary, and outside recreation, are suspended until further notice.

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