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Date: September 14, 2017
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Marion-Walthall County Regional Correctional Facility Search Turns up Assorted Contraband

JACKSON – MDOC Officers found cellphone chargers, sunglasses, free world shoes, hair blow dryers, and an electronic game among assorted contraband during a shakedown Thursday at Marion-Walthall County Regional Correctional Facility in Columbia.

The seized items also included an MP3 player, bags of tobacco, packs of free world T-shirts, two packs of marijuana, a pack of spice, earbuds, umbrellas, a laser light, scissors, a set of flat irons, and a small bottle of tattoo ink.

“I am pleased that we did not find a lot of contraband when we searched the regional facility with 200-plus inmates and the housing areas for 31 male and female inmates in the Joint State County Work Program,” Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. “These items are among those we are accustomed to finding, but show that we need to continue to work on preventing security breaches at the facilities.”

Marion-Walthall can hold up to 280 inmates; it held 224 on Thursday.

Hall revealed the latest shakedown during an appearance on Super Talk Mississippi with radio host Paul Gallo. She told Gallo the facilities don’t know when officers with the Mississippi Department of Corrections are coming. “We show up like thieves in the night,” she said in response to a question about notification.

A few of the 36 facilities remain to be searched since Hall began the shakedowns in early March under Operation Zero Tolerance. The major searches are designed to slow the flow of contraband in the prison system for the safety of staff and inmates.

Other shakedowns have occurred at the following facilities: Issaquena County Regional Correctional Facility, 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.