



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Officer Caught with Spice at SMCI Facing Felony Charges

JACKSON – A three-year corrections officer caught with 112 grams of spice and other contraband was arrested today as she was reporting to work at South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville.

Tyra Renita Woodard, 29, of Millry, Ala., is being held in the Greene County Jail on a charge of possession of a controlled substance on prison grounds. Bond had not been set as of this afternoon.

“Woodard was trying to introduce the spice in her jacket and a white substance in her breakfast food,” Corrections Investigation Division Director Sean K. Smith said. “In addition, 113 pills, including 71 Xanax, were found in her jacket,” he said.

What Woodard intended to do with the contraband is part of the ongoing investigation.

“This officer was caught because her fellow officers followed the search procedures we have in place to deter the introduction of contraband,” Commissioner Marshall Fisher said. “Her arrest shows that we have hardworking, honest officers who don’t tolerate corruption.”

Woodard not only faces criminal charges but also disciplinary action, which includes termination.

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Media Note: Pictures of Tyra Woodard, the food in which the contraband items were found and the spice contraband can be found on the MDOC Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/MississippiDepartmentOfCorrections>