

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 29, 2018
Contact: Office of Communications
E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

Commissioner Hall: Small amounts of contraband seized in shakedowns show MDOC must remain vigilant

JACKSON – Small amounts of contraband items found in recent shakedowns indicate the Mississippi Department of Corrections must continue to be vigilant under Operation Zero Tolerance, Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said.

“We should never let up with our shakedowns, whether they are on a small or large scale,” Commissioner Hall said. “Citizens often ask what we are doing about inmates on a cellphone or posting on Facebook. We are seizing the illegal phones along with other illegal items when we get the complaints, especially during these shakedowns.”

Sheriffs of regional correctional facilities can request MDOC’s assistance to search state inmates as was the case of the latest shakedown Thursday morning at Carroll-Montgomery County Regional Correctional Facility in Vaiden.

In addition to the MDOC officers, which included Probation and Parole agents and K-9 units, the Mississippi Highway Patrol also helped search the facility starting at 3:30 a.m. Items found include seven cellphones, three cellphone chargers, two pairs of tennis shoes, and one sharpened metal instrument.

Shakedowns also have occurred this month at Delta Correctional Facility in Leflore County, which serves as a Technical Violation Center (TVC), and Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County. As a result of the shakedown at CMCF, 15 inmates were cited for rule violations after items, including shanks, money transaction numbers, tattoo guns, and cellphone chargers, were found in their locker boxes. “This is a very small amount of contraband for the 1,900 inmates of all custody levels who were searched,” CMCF Superintendent Ron King said. “The entire facility was not searched.”