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WEAPONS AND DRUGS SEIZED IN MDOC CRACKDOWN AT WILKINSON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

JACKSON – A large number of shanks and assorted contraband, including cash, drugs, cell phones, and tennis shoes were seized during a shakedown early today at Wilkinson County Correctional Facility (WCCF).

The massive search involving officers both inside and outside the Mississippi Department of Corrections is part of a security crackdown Interim Commissioner Pelicia Hall has ordered system wide.

“Our mission is to enhance public safety by providing secure facilities and ensuring that our staff have a safe work environment,” Hall said. “This excessive amount of contraband is unacceptable. Neither staff nor inmates should have to fear being assaulted or exploited. Whether you are staff or inmate, if you are caught with contraband, you will be dealt with accordingly.”

Privileges are usually suspended at facilities when large amounts of contraband are found. Therefore, there will be no visitation, commissary, and outside recreation at Wilkinson until further notice as prison officials examine the items seized during the surprise predawn search.

Hall said the department appreciates assistance from the Mississippi Department of Public Safety in conducting the shakedown at Wilkinson.

WCCF is one of the state’s three private prisons. Located in Woodville, it houses nearly 900 inmates.