



PRESS Announcement

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Date: March 4, 2003
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jackson... The Mississippi Department of Corrections in conjunction with the Washington County Sheriff's Department is hosting the First Mississippi Narcotic Detector Dog Field Trials and Certification at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, Miss. The competition began on Monday, March 3, and will conclude on Wednesday, March 5. Concluding today is the narcotic certification/dog proficiency portion.

This event is being held to bring Mississippi law enforcement narcotic handlers and dog teams together for the purpose of advancing K-9 training and operations. Competition includes vehicle searches, open area searches, room searches and scratch drills. Masking odors are being introduced to enhance training difficulty.

Approximately 25 teams are participating in this training/competition. Some of the teams participating include the Mississippi Highway Patrol; Washington, Lafayette, Union, Tippah and Calhoun county sheriff's departments; and police departments from Greenville, Indianola, Coffeerville, Oxford and Cleveland. Canine units from Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, and Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Pearl are also participating in the event.

The final competition will begin at 8 a.m. on Wednesday and will be followed by an awards ceremony.

Media Note. The media is invited to attend this event. If you plan to attend, please notify Ken Jones at 601.359.5608.