



NEWS RELEASE

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Date: October 3, 2002
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For Immediate Release

South Mississippi Correctional Institution Employee and a Jackson Resident arrested and charged with Conspiracy to Introduce Marijuana onto Prison Grounds

Jackson – South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) employee Marsha R. Williamson of Waynesboro, a correctional officer trainee at the prison, was arrested Wednesday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m. at her home by investigators of the Mississippi Department of Corrections' (MDOC) Internal Audit Division (IAD) and the Waynesboro Police Department. Officers took Williamson into custody and recovered a package box that contained cash and marijuana. Williamson, who had worked at SMCI for nearly seven months, was charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband in the form of cash money and marijuana onto the prison grounds.

Coincidental with Williamson's arrest, a Jackson Metro Narcotics Unit task force involving IAD investigators with MDOC, agents from the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics and officers with the Jackson Police Department, arrested Willie Mae Lewis, a co-conspirator in the contraband smuggling scheme at her home in Jackson at approximately 7:00 p.m. Lewis, who is the mother of an inmate at SMCI, was also charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband onto prison grounds.

"We will be aggressive in our investigations of any reported wrongdoing by staff who abuse their positions of trust," said Commissioner Christopher Epps. "We will not tolerate wrongful actions by any employee that would disrupt the integrity and safety of our correctional system and place in jeopardy the public's safety. Our IAD will work untiringly to investigate and remove all employees who violate their positions trust within our ranks."

According to investigating officials, conspiracy to introduce contraband (narcotics) carries a maximum sentence of fifteen years imprisonment and up to a \$25,000 fine.

Williamson and Lewis were placed in the Greene County Jail in Leakesville, Miss., following their arrest where they remained in the county jail Thursday awaiting their bond hearing.

