



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE **OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner

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DJJ COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCES NEW AUGUSTA YDC DIRECTOR

(AUGUSTA - GA) The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice is pleased to announce his selection for the top leadership spot at DJJ's Youth Development Campus (YDC) in Augusta, Georgia. Commissioner Avery D. Niles named **Cedric B. Taylor of Barnesville, Georgia as the new Director of the Augusta YDC**. Commissioner Niles welcomed the new YDC Director and the extensive experience in Georgia's adult corrections system that Taylor will bring to bear on the challenges ahead at the Augusta juvenile justice campus.

Cedric Taylor has served with the Georgia Department of Corrections since 1992 when he began his law enforcement and security career as a Correctional Officer in charge of guarding inmates at Hays State Maximum Security Prison. As a Correctional Officer at Hays he was responsible for counseling inmates on prison rules and conducted institutional inmate counts with "100-percent accuracy."

Taylor worked his way up through the corrections system, serving as Sergeant at Hays State Prison where he supervised correctional officers from 1995 to 1998. He was placed in charge of the Special Operations Training Unit there from 1998 to 2007, coordinating special agency details and joint agency operations. He was made Deputy Warden of Security at Hayes from 2007 to 2009, managing and disciplining security officers, enforcing security procedures, and maintaining emergency drill training.

In 2009 Taylor became DOC's Manager of Special Operations, overseeing their Tactical Squads, Emergency Response Teams, Hostage Rescue Teams and Canine Units and was responsible for their Special-Ops training. In 2010 he made the jump to Warden of Georgia's Autry State Prison for eighteen months.

Since August 2012, Taylor was Warden at Valdosta State Close Security Prison, where he was responsible for 15-hundred inmates and a work force of three hundred.

"With his twenty years of experience across this spectrum of Georgia Corrections, Cedric Taylor can provide the new direction in integrity we need at Augusta YDC," said Commissioner Avery Niles. "Taylor has a reputation for honesty and a firm and fair attitude for leadership," said Commissioner Niles.

Taylor has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Thomas University in Thomasville, Georgia and is a graduate of the Marion Military Academy in Marion, Alabama. He is a POST Certified Instructor in

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many law enforcement special-ops areas and was presented a Commissioner's Coin for going above and beyond the call of duty by former DOC Commissioner James Donald.

As of January 2013, the Augusta YDC will also have a new Assistant Director of Security and Captain of Correctional Officers.

James L. Reid was named **Assistant Director of Security** for the Augusta YDC December 31st. Reid is a Marine Corps veteran from Augusta, Georgia with more than thirty years of law enforcement experience.

Donnell Collins was named **Captain of Corrections Officers** at the Augusta YDC December 31st. Collins is a six year Army veteran from Augusta, Georgia who began working with the Department of Juvenile Justice in January 2000.

"I want to express my great satisfaction in finding Director Taylor, Assistant Director Reid, and Capt. Collins," said Commissioner Niles. "Choosing the right people to fill these key roles in a challenging juvenile justice environment was not easy."

"Over the last two months I have focused on making certain I had the right people to run this campus and to ensure we operate a safe and secure facility for our youth and staff," said Niles. "We are investing great confidence in this leadership team for the Augusta YDC."

DJJ Commissioner Avery Niles will introduce his new Augusta YDC management team at a news conference at the facility at a time and date to be announced in January 2013.

(END RELEASE)

