



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF **JUVENILE JUSTICE**

L. GALE BUCKNER, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

L. Gale Buckner, Commissioner
Jim Shuler, Director
Office of Communications



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DJJ Names Acting Director at Augusta YDC

(AUGUSTA-YDC) Mr. Melvin Womble has been named Acting Director of the DJJ's Youth Development Campus in Augusta, effective immediately. As Acting Director, Mr. Womble has full authority to manage day-to-day facility operations.

Mr. Womble, who has held the position of Augusta YDC Assistant Director of Security since March of 2012, is a retired drill instructor and platoon sergeant with the United States Army. He spent two years as a unit manager at the Augusta State Medical Prison where he managed a close security dorm with 400 inmates. He also served as a Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) sergeant at that same facility for six years.

Former Director Ronald Brawner has submitted his resignation as Facility Director effective November 15, 2012 and is now on leave until that date.

The Commissioner's Office announced that higher ranking Central Office DJJ officials will continue to maintain oversight over the Augusta YDC operations and provide onsite support until a new director is named for the facility.

The acting Director has been instructed to oversee safety and security improvements in areas considered deficient, in addition to these specific areas:

- to ensure detainee movement and population counts are properly conducted
- that dorms are managed in a manner which prevents safety and security issues
- that staff frequently practice emergency drills to ensure preparation for real crises
- that perimeter checks are conducted as outlined in policy
- that all staff members are familiar with the escape prevention plan, and
- that the emergency notification process for local law enforcement is structured to accurately reflect when notification times or attempted contacts are made to the Sheriff's Department.

DJJ and GBI investigators continue their probe into the recent escape at the Augusta YDC.

(END RELEASE)

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