

For Immediate Release

IDOC Facilities Receive ACA Accreditation at National Conference

Kissimmee, Florida (January 13, 2009) -- Five Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) facilities received accreditation from the American Correctional Association at the 2009 Winter Conference in Kissimmee, Florida.

Branchville Correctional Facility, Henryville Correctional Facility, Rockville Correctional Facility, Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and the Indiana State Prison all received reaccreditation at panel hearings led by ACA Commissioner Thomas Stickrath. "Team Indiana" continued its practice of presenting at the hearings and receiving certification as a State rather than individually. Indiana is the only state that presents as a team!



Pictured: Supt. Levenhagen, Supt. Stout, Major Faulkenberg, Supt. Dempsey, and Chief of Staff Ronay.

Chief of Staff Dan Ronay and Director Ronald Allen represented the Agency as each Superintendent presented to the Commission on Accreditation during the State's 3-hour panel hearings. Throughout the hearings, ACA Commissioners Stickrath, Pencil, Anderson, and Donahue continually provided laudatory comments on each Indiana facility.

Specific praise was bestowed on Indiana State Prison as the panel applauded the Custody staff for the high level of security maintained at the Agency's oldest and most secure prison, and they also highlighted its Medical Department for superb service and care to ISP inmates. Superintendent Mark Levenhagen accepted accreditation for ISP acknowledging that his

predecessor had paved the way his last 2 years at the prison. (Commissioner Edwin G. Buss was ISP's Superintendent until his promotion in August of 2008.)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility received high marks for the implementation and early success of the Future Soldiers Program. Superintendent Mike Dempsey pointed out how successful the program has been, indicating that 5 graduates have already completed recruit training, with two serving overseas.

Superintendent Julie Stout of the Rockville Correctional Facility was commended for her staff's motivation, pride, and effort to emphasize that re-entry starts on day one at the facility. Henryville and Branchville were also applauded for their reaccreditation efforts.

Chief of Staff Ronay addressed the panel and stated that Indiana's efforts and achievements with ACA and accreditation are only made possible because of the fine quality and caliber of the staff in each of the Agency's facilities.

"ACA accreditation is the epitome and hallmark of correctional professionalism which demands adherence to evidence-based practices and the finest in public safety service," Commented Commissioner Buss. "I am extremely proud of the staff at these facilities for their dedication, drive, and hard work toward the reaccreditation effort."

-30-

Media Contact:

Douglas S. Garrison

Chief Communications Officer

Phone: (317) 232-5780

dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov