

2009



*Honor and Integrity in Public Service*



**Governor - Mike Beebe**

**July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009**

Arkansas  
Department  
Of Correction

**facts brochure**





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## **EEO Statement**

In keeping with its mission, the Department of Correction desires to employ individuals who are dependable and sincerely interested in serving the mission of the department. The ADC seeks employees who can handle these important matters in a professional manner.

The ADC is an equal opportunity employer providing equal employment opportunities without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status. This policy and practice relates to all phases of employment including, but not limited to, recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, transfer, layoff, recall, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, training, use of all facilities and participation in all department sponsored employee activities and programs.

All members of the ADC management staff are familiar with this statement of policy, the philosophy behind it and their responsibility to apply these principles in good faith for meaningful progress in the utilization of minorities and women.

## **Management**

### **Board of Corrections (historical)**



In 1993, the Arkansas General Assembly amended Arkansas Code Annotated §12-27-101 and placed the Department of Correction under the supervision and control of the Board of Correction and Community Punishment, which assumed the powers, functions, and duties formerly held by the Board of Correction (created in 1968) and its predecessor, the State Penitentiary Board (created in 1943).

In August 2001, legislation went into effect changing the Board's name to the Board of Corrections. This was necessary when the name of the Department of Community Punishment changed to the Department of Community Correction.

Board of Corrections has seven voting members:

- Chairman of The Board of Parole
- Five citizen members
- One criminal justice faculty member, employed at a four-year Arkansas university

The board was impaneled July 1, 1993. Each member serves a term of seven years.



## Director and Staff

The Director of the Arkansas Department of Correction reports directly to the Board of Corrections as the agency's Chief Executive, Officer, and is responsible for the agency's philosophy, mission, and operations.

The ADC has four divisions, which are supervised by a deputy or assistant director. The divisions are ***Administrative Services, Institutional Services, Health and Correctional Programs, and Construction and Maintenance***. In addition, the agency has a staff of professionals who report directly to the director.

The **Public Information and Legislative Liaison** is responsible for releasing information, responding to requests from the media and the public, coordinating tours of department facilities, agency publications, constituency services, and assisting members and staff of the Arkansas General Assembly.

The **Attorney** provides assistance to the department on legal matters and has a critical role in the development of policies and procedures, which must comply with State and Federal laws. The ADC attorney also represents the Department at Arkansas Claims Commission hearings and on employee grievance appeals.

The **Equal Employment Opportunity and Grievance Officer** monitors compliance with court consent decrees and the Uniform Employee Grievance Procedures, established in 1985 by gubernatorial proclamation. The officer also assists in development of affirmative action plans and efforts.

**Internal Affairs** investigates inmate complaints, suspected criminal activities, and serious allegations regarding employee conduct. The division works with the Attorney General's Office on employee litigation and Arkansas Claims Commission actions. Internal Affairs also coordinates contact with law enforcement agencies concerning alleged criminal activities of inmates and employees.

**Disciplinary Hearings** allow inmates to respond to disciplinary actions filed against them by department staff. A disciplinary hearing officer interviews each inmate, reviews documentation, and determines any necessary sanctions. Inmates have the right to appeal through various channels within the ADC.

The **Internal Auditor** performs regular program audits and specific audits requested by administrators. The internal auditor also provides assistance and information to Legislative and other external auditors, reviews their findings, and initiates corrective action.



## **Administrative Services**

The Administrative Services Division provides support services to all operational units of the department while ensuring agency compliance with State and Federal accounting and budgetary procedures.

**Human Resources** assists operational units in all aspects of personnel-related functions including: recruitment, hiring, employee benefits, training, staff development, and retention of a skilled labor force for the department.

**Accounting Operations** is responsible for accounts payable and telephone services for Pine Bluff Complex and Administration Annex East.

**Accounting Control** is responsible for agency fund management activities, administration of Federal grants, maintenance of general and subsidiary ledgers, and records of fixed assets.

**Budget** prepares annual and biennial budgets, required financial reports, analysis, and monitors agency expenditures.

**Procurement** procures goods and services for the agency and administers all aspects of its vehicle fleet, and insurance coverage.

**Information Systems** includes the development, maintenance, and evaluation of computer applica-



tions, network and equipment installation, and employee training.

**Research and Planning** provides analytical and research services for informational needs and also coordinates strategic planning. Responsible for the updates to policies and procedures.



**Training** provides education both security and non-security personnel including management level training. In-service training is conducted at the training academy and other ADC facilities. The academy is accredited by the American Correctional Association.

**Warehouse and Food Services** division is responsible for procuring, storing, and transporting food for the department. It is also responsible for menu planning and meal preparation that meets the nutritional and health requirements of the inmate population.

### **Institutional Services**

**Security** monitors and evaluates the agency's security procedures and reviews security related equipment and programs.

**Regional Jails** are operated by the department at Dermott, and Brickeys. They house city, county, and state inmates, enabling Governmental entities to share construction and operating costs.



**Accreditation** is a process the department utilizes to develop policies that meet the national standards of the American Correctional Association. Accreditation enhances program development and improves the inmate's quality of life.

**Boot Camp Program** is a military style treatment program for nonviolent offenders. The boot camp uses discipline, education, and substance abuse treatment to modify criminal behavior and reduce the need for long-term incarceration. An aftercare program is provided to all boot camp graduates.

**Work Release Programs** allow inmates to hold paying jobs in the community while being housed at a correctional facility. The Department of Correction operates work release programs at Luxora, Springdale, Benton, Texarkana, Pine Bluff, and Wrightsville.

**Pre-Release Programs** at the Wrightsville, Delta, North Central, Ouachita Regional, Tucker, and McPherson Units provide counseling and instruction to inmates nearing their release dates. The programs provide inmates with information, assistance, and opportunities to address and reduce anxiety about re-entering society.



**Inmate Grievance Procedure** allows inmates to resolve grievances, complaints, and problems through established procedures. Inmates submit grievances at the unit level. Decisions can be ap-

pealed to the chief deputy or assistant director of institutions. Unless an extension is agreed upon, the process is completed within 90 days. In emergency situations, immediate action is taken. The department's grievance procedure is certified by the U. S. Department of Justice, which means the courts can hold inmate lawsuits until grievance remedies are exhausted.

**Inmate Transportation** is responsible for transporting and escorting inmates outside department facilities. Inmates are transported for medical appointments, court appearances, and unit transfers. During any inmate movement, transportation personnel maintain security and protect property.

**Agriculture Program** provides the majority of vegetables, meat, milk, and eggs consumed by the inmate population and generates revenue by selling soybeans, rice, cotton, and other cash crops. The largest farm operation is located at the Cummins Unit where 16,000 acres are devoted to cash crops, vegetables, hay production, and livestock. More than 5,000 acres at the Wrightsville Unit are used for cattle and hay production. The Tucker Unit provides 4,500 acres for rice and soybeans. The East Arkansas Regional Unit produces cotton, soybeans, and wheat on 2,500 acres. A vegetable processing plant is located at the Varner Unit.

**Industry Program** offers on the job training for inmates in manufacturing settings and produces



goods for public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Operations include digital imaging, janitorial products, garment manufacturing, vinyl products, graphic arts and duplicating, mattress manufacturing, vehicle refurbishing, school furniture repair, furniture manufacturing and athletic/recreational equipment production.



**Classification** determines inmate placement for vocational, work, and facility/barracks assignments by evaluating security requirements, programming needs, and individual characteristics such as, age, offense, criminal history, medical, and psychological conditions.

**Emergency Preparedness** keeps the department in a state of readiness. Through extensive training and by developing procedure manuals and emergency response teams, this system minimizes the impact of major emergencies.

**Canine Drug Detection Program** is a program designed to utilize canine teams at facilities to search for narcotics and tobacco.

### **Health and Correctional Programs**

**Religious Services** conducts Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Islamic services for inmates and provides opportunities for other religious groups to meet in accordance with inmate needs and security procedures. Department chaplains provide a



crisis ministry by delivering death and other emergency messages to inmates and assisting them with telephone calls, emergency furloughs, and letter writing. Chaplains are available for pastoral counseling and individual care. Community volunteers and Certified Religious Assistants help organize religious activities within the institutions.

**Medical Services** include sick call, physician referral, x-ray, and laboratory services, prosthetic and pharmaceutical needs, hospital care and specialty services such as cardiology, HIV clinics, chronic care clinics for respiratory ailments, surgery, access to optometry, and dental programs. Medical and dental services for inmates are provided by a private contractor. Infirmaries are operated at major units and a licensed hospital is located at the Diagnostic Unit. Cosmetic and truly elective procedures are not provided.

**Mental Health Services** provides psychological assessment of new inmates and uses the information for classification and determination of additional needs. The ADC has a Special Programs Unit for intensive treatment and specialized assessment; and a Special Management Barracks for onsite management of the mentally challenged, as well as counseling and suicide prevention services. Proactive programs dealing with anger management, cognitive thinking, and relapse prevention are available at most facilities.

**Substance Abuse Treatment Programs (SATP)** are conducted at most facilities. These residential treatment programs use a relapse/recovery approach. After completing SATP, inmates are encouraged to participate in weekly group meetings. In conjunction with SATP is the Therapeutic Community program, which is a more comprehensive treatment program.

**Sex Offender Screening and Risk Assessment (SOSRA)** performs evaluations on all adults convicted of sexual offenses in Arkansas to determine the risk-level they could pose to the general public.

**Reduction of Sexual Victimization Program (RSVP)** is a voluntary program designed to treat sex offenders prior to release. The program is designed to help sex offenders understand, manage, and control sexually deviant behavior.

**Volunteer Services** offers orientation and training to volunteers who provide a wide range of services to inmates. Volunteer programs include Jaycees, Alcoholic Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, religious, recreational activities, tutoring, and counseling.

### **Construction & Maintenance**

**Construction and Maintenance** builds and maintains facilities required for departmental operations. Many construction projects are completed using in-

mate labor, which provides work and training for inmates and reduces departmental overall construction costs.

### **Correctional School System**

**Vocational Education** is provided by the Riverside Vocational Technical School. Its mission is to equip offenders with marketable skills to aid their re-entry into society. Courses are individually paced, but usually take about nine months to complete. Courses available to eligible inmates include automotive mechanics, horticulture, cabinet making, welding, data processing, diesel engine mechanics, carpentry/construction, brick and block masonry, computerized accounting, graphic arts, drafting, plumbing, and small engine mechanics.

**Education** for inmates is provided through the Arkansas Department of Correction School District. The district, which is accredited and supervised by the Arkansas Department of Education, provides non-graded programs that enable students to progress individually. Academic testing during intake orientation determines placement. Students are retested at three month intervals and may be promoted to higher levels, with the potential of earning a high school equivalency (GED) diploma. The Board of Corrections has made education mandatory for all inmates who lack their GED or high school diploma and are able to participate.

### Inmate Demographics

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>		<b>50.7%</b>	
	<b>Black</b>		<b>46%</b>	
	<b>Hispanic</b>		<b>2.6%</b>	
	<b>Other</b>		<b>0.5%</b>	

<b>Avg. Age of Population: Male = 36.6, Female = 36.2</b>
<b>Avg. Age of Admission: Male = 33.8, Female = 34.5</b>

### Custody Level

<b>Maximum: 17.9%</b>	<b>Minimum: 48.3%</b>
<b>Medium: 32.6%</b>	<b>Unclsfd.: 1.2%</b>

### Classification of Inmates

<b>Class IA</b>	<b>5.0 %</b>	<b>Class III</b>	<b>4.3 %</b>
<b>Class IB</b>	<b>6.7 %</b>	<b>Class IV</b>	<b>13.8 %</b>
<b>Class I</b>	<b>55.7 %</b>	<b>Class I-P</b>	<b>3.3 %</b>
<b>Class II</b>	<b>10.8 %</b>		

### Inmate Sentencing Data

<b>Total Inmates Admitted:</b>	<b>6,767</b>
<b>Total Inmates Released:</b>	<b>6,800</b>
<b>Avg. Length of Sentence for Population:</b>	<b>19y, 00m, 00d</b>
<b>Avg. Length of Sentence for Admissions:</b>	<b>08y, 11m, 17d</b>
<b>Avg. Length of Time Served:</b>	<b>03y, 06m, 19d</b>

### Offense Breakdown (% of Population)

<b>Non-Violent: 53.4%</b>	<b>Violent: 46.6%</b>
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# Directory

## Central Office

**Established:** 1979

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Princeton Pike Road, Pine Bluff,  
Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 8707,  
Pine Bluff, AR 71611-8707

**Telephone:** (870) 267-6999

**Fax Numbers:**

Director Staff: 267-6244

Chief Deputy Director: 267-6313

Deputy Director of Operations: 267-6304

Deputy Director of Health/Programs: 267-6363

Assist. Director of Institutions: 267-6399

Assist. Director of Adm. Services: 267-6258

Assist. Director of Construction: 267-6617

**Special Operations:** Director's Office and staff,  
Chief Deputy Director of Institutions, Deputy/  
Assistant Directors of Administrative Services,  
Health and Correctional Programs, Institutions,  
Construction and Maintenance

## Administration Annex East

**Established:** 2000

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Near the Pines Mall on Harding  
Avenue in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** 2403 East Harding Avenue,  
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

**Telephone:** (870) 850-8469

**Fax Numbers:**

Human Resources: 850-8550

Information Technology: 850-8551

Accounting: 850-8494

Procurement: 850-8488

Inmate Banking: 850-8481

Sex Offender Assessment: 850-8446

Farm and Industry: 850-8440

**Special Operations:** Human Resources, Information Systems, Farm and Industry, Accounting, Procurement, Inmate Banking, Sex Offenders Assessment and Screening

**Benton Unit**

**Established:** 1974

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Five miles South of Benton, off Hwy 67,  
Saline County

**Mailing Address:** 6701 Highway 67,  
Benton, AR 72015-8488

**Telephone:** (501) 315-2252

**Fax Number:** (501) 315-3736

**Custody Level:** Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 325

**Special Operations:** Work Release, Education, Substance Abuse Education, and Regional Maintenance

## **Boot Camp**

**Established:** 1990

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 10 miles South of Little Rock, off Hwy 365, Pulaski County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1010,  
Wrightsville, AR 72183-1000

**Telephone:** (501) 897-2800

**Fax:** (501) 897-1195

**Custody Level:** Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 212 (24 female inmates, 138 male inmates)

**Approximate Acreage:** 3,500

**Special Operations:** Military Style Boot Camp, Substance Abuse Education, Education, Work Release, and Industry

## **Cummins Unit**

**Established:** 1902

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 28 miles South of Pine Bluff, off Hwy 65, Lincoln County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 500,  
Grady, AR 71644-0500

**Telephone:** (870) 850-8899

**Fax:** (870) 850-8862

**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 1,550

**Approximate Acreage:** 16,500

**Agriculture:** Livestock, Field Crops, Feed Mill,

Slaughterhouse, Poultry, Swine, Cow-Calf, Hot House, Farm Garage, Apiary, Pecans

**Industry:** Vinyl Products, Silk Screening, Garment Factory, Monogramming, and Furniture Refinishing.

**Special Operations:** Special Management Barracks for Mental Health, Education, Horse Operation, Substance Abuse Education, and Canine Unit

### **Delta Regional Unit**

**Established:** 1990

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Dermott, AR, Chicot County

**Mailing Address:** 880 East Gaines  
Dermott, AR 71638-9505

**Telephone:** (870) 538-2000

**Fax:** (870) 538-2007

**Custody Level:** Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 432

**Approximate Acreage:** 90

**Industry:** Janitorial Products

**Special Operations:** Jail Operations, Regional Maintenance, Education, and Substance Abuse Education

### **Diagnostic Unit**

**Established:** 1981

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Pine Bluff Complex, West 7th Street,  
Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** 7500 Correction Circle, Pine Bluff, AR 71603-1498  
**Telephone:** (870) 267-6410  
**Fax:** (870) 267-6709  
**Custody Level:** Medium-Minimum  
**Unit Capacity:** 459  
**Approximate Acreage:** 125  
**Special Operations:** Male Intake Services, Special Programs Unit for Mental Health, Hospital Facility, Construction, Warehouse, Substance Abuse Education, and Education

### **East Arkansas Regional Unit**

**Established:** 1992  
**ACA Accredited**  
**Location:** Approximately 17 miles Southeast of Forrest City, Lee County  
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 180, Brickeys, AR 72320-0180  
**Telephone:** (870) 295-4700  
**Fax:** (870) 295-6564  
**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium  
**Unit Capacity:** 1,432  
**Approximate Acreage:** 2,500  
**Agriculture:** Field Crops and Farm Garage  
**Special Operations:** Jail Operations, Maximum Security Unit, Canine Unit, Education, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and Regional Maintenance

**Grimes Correctional Facility**

**Established:** 1998

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Four miles Northeast of Newport, off Hwy 384, Jackson County

**Mailing Address:** 300 Corrections Drive, Newport, AR 72112-33493

**Telephone:** (870) 523-5877

**Fax:** (870) 523-8302

**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 1000

**Agriculture:** Garden

**Special Operations:** Regional Maintenance, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and Education

**J. Aaron Hawkins Sr. Center**

**Established:** 2006

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Wrightsville Unit, Pulaski County

**Mailing Address:** P.O Box 1010

**Telephone:** (501) 897-2256

**Fax:** (501) 897-1195

**Custody Level:** Minimum-Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 212

**Approximate Acreage:** 3,500

**Special Operations:** Special Programs Unit (mental health), Industry, Parenting, and Substance Abuse Education

### **Maximum Security Unit**

**Established:** 1983

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 25 miles Northeast of Pine Bluff, off Hwy 15, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** 2501 State Farm Road, Tucker, AR 72168-8713

**Telephone:** (501) 842-3800

**Fax:** (501) 842-1977

**Custody Level:** Maximum

**Unit Capacity:** 532

**Approximate Acreage:** 4,420

**Agriculture:** Field Crops

**Special Operations:** Substance Abuse Education and Education

### **McPherson Correctional Facility**

**Established:** 1998

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Four miles Northeast of Newport, off Hwy 384, Jackson County

**Mailing Address:** 302 Corrections Drive, Newport, AR 72112-33493

**Telephone:** (870) 523-2639

**Fax:** (870) 523-6202

**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 700 (female inmates)

**Agriculture:** Vegetable Processing

**Special Operations:** Female Intake Services, Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Regional Main-

tenance, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Education, Vocational Education, Pre-Release, Therapeutic Community, and Life Skills Program

**Mississippi Co. Work Release Center**

**Established:** 1975

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** West of Luxora, Mississippi County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 10,  
Luxora, AR 72358-0010

**Telephone:** (870) 658-2214

**Fax:** (870) 658-2678

**Custody Level:** Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 121

**Special Operations:** Work Release, Substance Abuse Education, and Regional Maintenance

**North Central Unit**

**Established:** 1990

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Three miles North of Calico Rock, off Hwy 5, IZARD County

**Mailing Address:** HC 62, Box 300, Calico Rock, AR 72519-0300

**Telephone:** (870) 297-4311

**Fax:** (870) 297-4322

**Custody Level:** Medium-Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 500

**Agriculture:** Garden and Forge Production

**Special Operations:** Education, Regional Maintenance



nance, Horse Operation, Substance Abuse Education, and Canine Unit

**Northwest Arkansas Work Release Center**

**Established:** 1980

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** City Administration Building at Springdale, Washington County

**Mailing Address:** 200 East Price Avenue, Springdale, AR 72764-1352

**Telephone:** (479) 756-2037

**Fax:** (479) 756-0445

**Custody Level:** Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 42

**Special Operations:** Work Release

**Ouachita River Correctional Center**

**Established:** 2003

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 100 Walco Lane, Hot Spring County

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 1630  
Malvern, AR 72104

**Telephone:** (501) 467-3400

**Fax:** (501) 467-3430

**Custody Level:** Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 1048

**Approximate Acreage:** 488

**Agriculture:** Cow-Calf and Forge Production

**Special Operations:** Construction, Garment Processing, Reduction of Sexual Victimization Program,

Regional Maintenance, Gravel Harvesting, Substance Abuse Education, Livestock, and Education

**Pine Bluff Unit**

**Established:** 1976

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Pine Bluff Complex, off West 7th Street, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** 890 Free Line Drive, Pine Bluff, AR 71603-1498

**Telephone:** (870) 267-6510

**Fax:** (870) 267-6523

**Custody Level:** Medium-Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 430

**Approximate Acreage:** 125

**Special Operations:** Work Release, Education, Canine Unit, Substance Abuse Education, and Horse Operation

**Randall L. Williams Correctional Facility**

**Established:** 1990

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Pine Bluff Complex, off West 7th Street, Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** 7206 West 7th Street, Pine Bluff, AR 71603

**Telephone:** (870) 267-6800

**Fax:** (870) 267-6808

**Custody Level:** Medium

**Unit Capacity:** 498

**Approximate Acreage:** 10

**Special Operations:** Jail Operations, Education, Regional Maintenance, and Substance Abuse Education

**Texarkana Regional Correction Center**

**Established:** 1983

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** In SW AR Community Correction, Miller County

**Mailing Address:** 305 East 5th Street, Texarkana, AR 71854

**Telephone:** (870) 779-3939

**Fax:** (870) 779-1616

**Custody Level:** Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 128

**Special Operations:** Regional Maintenance, Substance Abuse Education, Work Release, and Education

**Tucker Unit**

**Established:** 1916

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 25 miles Northeast of Pine Bluff, off Hwy 15, Jefferson County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 240, Tucker, AR 72168-0240

**Telephone:** (501) 842-2519

**Fax:** (501) 842-3958

**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium-Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 796

**Approximate Acreage:** 4,420

**Agriculture:** Field Crops, Garden, and Farm Garage

**Industry:** Mattress Manufacturing, Furniture Refinishing, Bus and Fire Truck Refurbishing, Athletic Equipment, School Desk, Chair Manufacturing, Metal Fabrication, and Auto Body/Repair Work

**Special Operations:** Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Education, Vocational Education, Regional Maintenance, Habilitation Program, Pre-Release, Therapeutic Community, and Canine Unit

### **Varner Unit**

**Established:** 1987

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 28 miles South of Pine Bluff, off Hwy 65, Lincoln County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 600,  
Grady, AR 71644-0600

**Telephone:** (870) 575-1800

**Fax:** (870) 479-3803

**Custody Level:** Maximum-Medium-Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 1,100

**Approximate Acreage:** 16,500

**Agriculture:** Vegetable Processing, Field Crops, and Garden

**Special Operations:** Regional Maintenance, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Education, and Vocational Education

### **Varner Supermax Unit**

**Established:** 2001

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** Varner Unit, Lincoln County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 600,  
Grady, AR 71644-0600

**Telephone:** (870) 575-1800

**Fax:** (870) 479-2935

**Custody Level:** High Security/Safe Keeping

**Unit Capacity:** 456

**Special Programs:** Death Row

### **Wrightsville Unit**

**Established:** 1981

**ACA Accredited**

**Location:** 10 miles South of Little Rock, off Hwy  
365, Pulaski County

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 1000, Wrightsville, AR  
72183-1000

**Telephone:** (501) 897-5806

**Fax:** (501) 897-5716

**Custody Level:** Medium-Minimum

**Unit Capacity:** 850

**Approximate Acreage:** 3,500

**Agriculture:** Beef Production, Horse Breeding/  
Training, Forage Production

**Industry Operations:** Graphic Arts, Dorm and  
Panel Systems, Moving Services, Engraving, Fur-

niture Manufacturing, and Data Imaging

**Special Operations:** Regional Maintenance, Substance Abuse Treatment Program, Education, Pre-Release Program, Braille Program, Canine Unit, Horse Operation, and Therapeutic Community

## History

- 1838** Governor James S. Conway signed legislation establishing the State Penitentiary.
- 1839** A 92.41 acre tract was purchased for the first penitentiary at the site where the Arkansas State Capitol is currently located.
- 1842** The first inmate was received and the first industry program, which was shoe manufacturing began. Col. Charles Caldwell was appointed as the first administrator, but was replaced by N. Faulkner. Faulkner was replaced by James M'Vicar, who served until 1848.
- 1843** The first State Penitentiary officially opened.
- 1846** The penitentiary was burned during an inmate riot. After being rebuilt, it reopened in 1849.
- 1847** George Brodie was appointed administrator and served until 1850.
- 1850** John H. Hammond was appointed administrator and served until 1854.
- 1853** The State leased its penitentiary operations to private individuals, the early 1900s.

- 1854** John Hutt was named administrator and served until 1859.
- 1859** Lessee A.J. Ward replaced John Hutt and served until 1870.
- 1861** Legislation allowed good time to be awarded to inmates for good behavior.
- 1863** The U.S. Army seized the penitentiary and operated it as a civil and military prison. Troops hanged 17 year old David O. Dodd at the penitentiary.
- 1867** After the Civil War, the penitentiary returned to State control.
- 1871** D.A. Tankersley was named superintendent.
- 1872** H.B. Robinson was appointed to serve as superintendent.
- 1873** Legislation established an official lease system John M. Peck served as the lessee until 1875.
- 1874** Gen. T.J. Churchill was appointed administrator.
- 1875** Zeb Ward was appointed administrator and served until 1883.
- 1884** James R. Miller was appointed administrator and served until 1890.
- 1891** John C. Carroll was appointed administrator and served until 1893.
- 1893** E.T. McConnell was appointed administrator and served until 1901.

- 1894** Several prison buildings were destroyed or severely damaged by high winds during storms reconstruction was completed in 1895.
- 1899** The penitentiary was relocated to a 15 acre site Southwest of Little Rock. The facility, commonly known as "The Walls" opened in 1910.
- 1901** Reese B. Hogins was appointed administrator and served until 1907.
- 1902** For \$140,000, about 10,000 acres of land was purchased for the Cummins farm. Inmates occupied the site in December.
- 1908** James A. Pitcock was appointed administrator and served until 1912.
- 1912** J.V. Ferguson was appointed administrator and served until 1915. In an effort to abolish the lease system, Governor W. Donaghey pardoned 361 inmates.
- 1913** Act 55 authorized a permanent death chamber within the penitentiary system. Lee Simms, convicted of rape, was the first inmate to be executed by the State of Arkansas.
- 1916** J.T. Burkett was appointed administrator and served until 1920. A 4,420-acre tract of land was purchased for the Tucker farm.
- 1921** Dee Horton was appointed administrator and served until 1927.
- 1926** The death chamber was relocated to the Tucker farm.



- 1927** A.G. Stedmore was appointed administrator. He was replaced by A. H. Reed, who served until 1928.
- 1928** S.L. Toddhunter was appointed administrator. He served until 1933.
- 1933** Governor J. Futrell closed "The Walls," and the inmates were moved to the Cummins and Tucker farms. T.C. Cogbill was appointed superintendent and served until 1936.
- 1937** Al Reed was appointed administrator and served until 1941.
- 1940** Brozene became the method of inmate currency and was utilized until 1978.
- 1941** T.C. Cogbill was re-appointed administrator and served until his death in 1949.
- 1943** Act 1 created the State Penitentiary Board. The use of striped uniforms for inmates was stopped.
- 1949** Lee Henslee was appointed superintendent and served until 1963.
- 1951** Act 351 created a State Reformatory for Women and transferred the Training School for Girls to the State Penitentiary. White females were moved from the State farm for Women to the Cummins farm. Black female inmates were already housed at Cummins and Tucker.
- 1963** Dan Stephens was appointed superintendent and served until 1965.
- 1964** Charles Fields was the last inmate executed at

Tucker before the death penalty was declared unconstitutional.

- 1965** O.E. Bishop was appointed superintendent and served until 1967. In *Talley vs. Stephens*, Federal Judge J. Smith Henley restricted corporal punishment until adequate safeguards could be established, which enjoined prison officials from interfering with inmate access to the courts and also required improvements in inmate medical services and care.
- 1966** Governor Orval Faubus ordered an investigation August 19 into allegations of inmate drunkenness, misuse of state property, and extortion. Superintendent Bishop fired all free world employees at Tucker. Severe riots erupted September 5 at the Cummins farm. State Police used tear gas to end a September 14 strike attempt by 144 Cummins inmates.
- 1968** Thomas Murton was named superintendent, but was replaced by Victor Urban. G. Robert Sarver was appointed commissioner and served until 1971. Thomas Murton alleged that human skeletons found at the Cummins Unit were the remains of inmates beaten to death and secretly buried. A medical examiner's investigation did not positively conclude the remains were inmates. Act 50 reorganized the penitentiary system into the Arkansas Department of Correction. In *Jackson vs. Bishop*, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the abolishment of corporal punishment.
- 1969** In *Holt vs. Sarver I*, Judge J. Smith Henley declared several aspects of the prison system to be unconstitutional, issued guidelines and ordered administrators to report corrective actions. Act 94 provided for early parole of first offenders aged 21 years and

younger, unless more than one-third of their sentence was imposed.

- 1970** In *Holt vs. Sarver II*, Judge Henley ruled the Arkansas prison system unconstitutional, the only one in the nation so judged, and ordered the State Correction Board to present a plan of action. State Police were assigned to the Cummins Unit during a riot sparked by inmate demands for racially segregated housing. Governor Winthrop Rockefeller commuted the sentences of 15 death row inmates, which was the entire population of death row.
- 1971** Terrell Don Hutto was appointed commissioner and served until 1976. In *Holt vs. Sarver II*, Judge Henley enjoined the prison system from inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on inmates and interfering with their access to court.
- 1972** The U.S. Supreme Court declared capital punishment to be unconstitutional under existing procedures. The Pine Bluff City Council and "Fifty for the Future," a group of business leaders, donated 80 acres for what would become the Pine Bluff Complex. The first prison rodeo was held at the Cummins Unit.
- 1973** Act 279 created the Department of Correction School District. In *Holt vs. Sarver III*, Judge J. Smith Henley, citing continued deficiencies, but substantial improvements in prison operations, released the department from his jurisdiction. Petitioner appeals were consolidated into *Finney vs. Hutto*.
- 1974** The first work release center, with 60 beds, opened at Benton. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, citing continued shortcomings, ordered Judge J. Smith

Henley to retain jurisdiction over the prison system. The Pine Bluff City Council and "Fifty for the Future" donated an additional 49 acres for the Pine Bluff Complex. Death Row inmates were moved from the Tucker Unit to the Cummins Unit. Sixty-seven inmates received certificates at the Tucker Unit during the department's first G.E.D. graduation ceremony.

- 1975** Capacity at the Benton Work Release Center increased to 225. The 30-bed Mississippi County Work Release Center opened. The 15-bed Booneville Beef Production Facility opened in Logan County. Act 378 authorized the transfer of eligible offenders to an alternative service program.
- 1976** The U.S. Supreme Court declared capital punishment to be constitutional. Female inmates were moved from the Cummins Unit to the 128-bed Pine Bluff Unit. The Barnes School complex in Pine Bluff was leased for an ADC training facility.
- 1978** A new death chamber was built at the Cummins Unit. Brozene use (inmate money) was discontinued and replaced by scrip coupons.
- 1979** The ADC's Central Office moved to the Pine Bluff Complex. Vernon Housewright was appointed Director and served until 1981.
- 1980** 16-bed Northwest Arkansas Work Release Center opened at Springdale, Arkansas.
- 1981** A.L. Lockhart was appointed Director and served until 1992. The State transferred the Boy's Training School at Wrightsville to the Department of Correction, which began using the facility to house 300 adult male inmates. The 250-bed Diagnostic Unit opened at the Pine Bluff Complex. Capacity at the

Women's Unit was increased to 146 beds and the facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association.

- 1982** After 13 years of litigation, Federal Judge G. Thomas Eisele ruled the Arkansas prison system constitutional, making it the first State system to be held constitutional after being declared unconstitutional. Capacities increased to 420 at the Wrightsville Unit, 488 at the Diagnostic Unit, 175 at the Women's Unit, and 50 at the Mississippi County Work Release Center. The capacity was decreased to four at the Booneville Beef Production Facility. The 100-bed Tucker Modular Unit opened.
- 1983** The 32-bed Texarkana Regional Correction Center, the first 108 beds at the Maximum Security Unit, and the 200-bed Cummins Modular Unit opened. Capacities increased to 120 at the Tucker Modular Unit and to 70 at the Mississippi County Work Release Center. Lethal injection was named as the State's method of execution. Act 309 enabled the department to enter into contractual agreements with counties for inmate labor. Act 814 allowed housing of inmates, in approved locations, outside of the department. Act 230 provided for early parole of some non-violent offenders.
- 1984** The annual prison rodeo was discontinued by the Board of Correction.
- 1985** Capacities increased to 119 at Texarkana Regional Correction Center and to 324 at the Maximum Security Unit. The Booneville Beef Production Facility was transferred to the Wrightsville Unit.
- 1986** Death Row inmates were transferred from the Cum-

mins Unit to the Maximum Security Unit, where the capacity was increased to 432.

- 1987** The 300-bed Varner Unit opened and its capacity was increased to 700 beds. The Women's Unit capacity increased to 288. Act 626 allowed inmates awaiting transfer to the department, from county jails, to earn meritorious good time. Act 273 provided for additional meritorious good time for job performance. Act 418, the Prison Overcrowding Emergency Powers Act, authorized the Board of Correction to declare prison overcrowding a state of emergency when population exceeds 98% of the rated capacity for 30 consecutive days. The board invoked the Emergency Powers Act, for the first time, releasing 96 inmates.
- 1988** The National Commission on Correctional Health Care accredited the ADC's medical services. The American Correctional Association accredited the Varner and Maximum Security Units. The ADC purchased 485 acres for a 300-bed facility at Calico Rock and 90 acres for a 476-bed unit at Dermott. The industry program for female inmates was relocated to the training academy. Capacity at the Wrightsville Unit increased to 550. After 14 years of litigation, the Jones and Davis vs. Hutto class-action lawsuit alleging racial discrimination was settled by consent decree.
- 1989** Act 492 established the Boot Camp program. Act 429 provided for additional meritorious good time for inmates completing certain programs while awaiting transfer to the department from county jails. The department was reorganized into divisions for operations: Administrative Services, Field Services, Institutions, and Treatment Services. One Deputy Director

and three Assistant Directors were appointed by the Director. Construction began on the Jefferson County Jail Correctional Facility to house 328 state inmates and 72 jail inmates. Capacities increased to 650 at the Wrightsville Unit and 900 at the Varner Unit. The American Correctional Association (ACA) accredited the Diagnostic and Wrightsville Units. Act 937 abolished the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Commission on Community-Based Rehabilitation. The act also created the Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation.

- 1990** Capacities increased to 1,100 at the Varner Unit and 71 at the Mississippi County Work Release Center. The Board of Correction named the Delta Regional Unit at Dermott and the North Central Unit at Calico Rock, and approved a 60-bed Boot Camp program at the Wrightsville Unit. The 100-bed Delta Regional Unit, the 100 bed North Central Unit, and the 400-bed Jefferson County Jail/Correctional Facility opened. In the first Arkansas executions since 1964, John Edward Swindler was executed by electrocution and Ronald Gene Simmons by lethal injection.
- 1991** Act 771 allowed early release of terminally ill inmates. Act 307 authorized electronic monitoring devices for community supervision. Act 263 created the Correction Resources Commission. Free tobacco rationing to inmates was discontinued. The department purchased 2,949 acres to build a 600-bed facility at Brickeys in Lee County. Capacities were increased to 438 at the Women's Unit, 700 at the Wrightsville Unit, 325 at the Benton Unit, 400 at the Delta Regional Unit, and 150 at the Boot Camp and the North Central Unit. Riverside Vo-Tech moved from the Cummins Unit to the Varner Unit. The American Correctional Association accredited Cen-

tral Office policies and procedures.

**1992** East Arkansas Regional Unit at Brickeys was established and set its capacity at 200. All furloughs were suspended after the escape of a furloughed inmate, but work release furloughs were later reinstated. A.L.Lockhart resigned as director May 29, and Larry Norris was appointed Interim Director. Roger Endell was appointed Director in November. The Board of Correction adopted by-laws for its operations. The Boot Camp was accredited by the ACA. Diagnostic Unit capacity increased to 567. Rickey Ray Rector was executed by lethal injection January 24, and Steven Douglas Hill was executed by the same method May 7. A Federal jury found the department had erred in classifying parole officers as professional employees, which exempted them from overtime compensation. Because of a court order, the Board of Correction adopted a policy recognizing inmate name changes for religious purposes. A jury found that assignments to administrative segregation had not violated the rights of five hoe squad workers.

**1993** Legislation eliminated the Board of Correction and created the Board of Correction and Community Punishment. Parole Services was transferred to the Department of Community Punishment. Some non-violent offenders were transferred judicially from the Department of Correction to the Department of Community Punishment for housing in lower-security community punishment centers. Legislation changed the name of the Board of Parole and Community rehabilitation to the Post Prison Transfer Board, and enabled offenders to be transferred to community punishment programs. The Arkansas Sentencing Commission was created. Good time



was eliminated for sentence reduction and allowed only for computing transfer eligibility to community punishment programs. The Act 814 work/study program and the Act 378 alternative community service program were eliminated. Legislation required the Governor to file a 30-day notice with the Secretary of State before granting clemency. The Plasma Program was discontinued March 18. Roger Endell resigned as director May 15, and Larry Norris was reappointed In terim Director. Capacities increased by 400 at the East Arkansas Regional Unit and by 100 at the Jefferson County Jail/Correctional Facility. Capacity at Cummins decreased by 100. Female inmates were transferred from the Pine Bluff Unit to the Tucker Unit. Male inmates were transferred from the Tucker Unit to the Varner Unit. The Pine Bluff Unit began housing male inmates working at the Pine Bluff complex. The first female hoe squad turned out for work June 16. A chancery court ruled the reimbursement rate for housing State inmates in county jails. This was set by the State, not the counties. A Federal Judge declared that prison security outweighs privacy rights of female inmates. An Arkansas Supreme Court ruling allowed inmates to review their files if Arkansas Freedom of Information Act guidelines were followed. Because of a lawsuit filed by the Arkansas Attorney General, an inmate who inherited more than \$500,000 while incarcerated, had to reimburse the state \$13,723.68 for his care and custody. The Delta Regional and North Central Units were accredited by the American Correctional Association. A total of 384 temporary beds were added at the East Arkansas Regional Unit, Delta Regional Unit, and Jefferson County Jail/Correctional Facility. An airstrip and parking area opened at the North Central Unit. Larry Norris was named director.

- 1994** An eight-year investigation ended when the U.S. Attorney General notified the Governor that living conditions at the Cummins and Tucker Units met standards. The Maximum Security and Varner Units were reaccredited by the American Correctional Association. Edward Charles Pickens and Jonas Hoten Whitmore were executed by lethal injection May 11. Hoyt Clines, James Holmes, and Darryl Richley were executed August 3. Meritorious furloughs were discontinued in August, after a furloughed inmate absconded. At the first meeting of the new Board of Correction and Community Punishment, Circuit Judge Randall Williams was selected chairman. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in September for the department's prison museum, which was the second state prison museum in the country. A Boot Camp program for females was approved November 16, and the boot camp capacity was increased to 180.
- 1995** The East Arkansas Regional Unit became the first facility to incorporate the new inmate telephone system. Richard Wayne Snell was executed by lethal injection April 19. The meritorious furlough program was reinstated in June. Barry Lee Fairchild was executed by lethal injection August 31. Sgt. Scott Grimes was fatally stabbed November 29, by Maximum Security Unit inmate Alvin Jackson. The Bi-State Detention Center was certified by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.
- 1996** The Department of Correction contracted with Wackenhut Corrections Corporation, in June, to build and manage two 600-bed adult correctional facilities at Newport. Alvin Jackson, who was convicted June 20 of the fatal stabbing of Sgt. Scott Grimes, was sen-

tenced to death for capital murder. The ADC contracted with a jail in Bowie County, Texas, to house up to 500 Arkansas inmates. William F. Parker was executed August 8. An Office of Emergency Preparedness was established by the ADC. The department's oldest and largest facility, the Cummins Unit, was accredited by the American Correctional Association. With that accreditation, the ADC became one of only nine states to be fully accredited by the ACA. The inmate grievance procedure was certified by the U. S. Department of Justice. A 100-bed barracks was constructed at the Maximum Security Unit. The PASS Program (Prisoners of Arkansas Striving for Success) was created at the Varner Unit to address problem inmates.

**1997** Kirt Douglas Wainright, Earl Van Denton, and Paul Ruiz were executed by lethal injection January 8. Legislation authorized lethal electrified fences at the medium and maximum security facilities. Construction of 200 beds at the North Central Unit and 400 beds at the East Arkansas Regional Unit was completed. New classrooms opened in May at the Pine Bluff Unit. Pastor Silas Johnson was appointed to the Board of Correction and Community Punishment, replacing the Rev. Hezekiah Stewart. Eugene Wallace Perry was executed by lethal injection August 6, and for the first time members of the victim's family could view the execution on a video monitor at the Cummins Unit. A U.S. Department of Justice lawsuit involving the ADC's past hiring and promotional practices of female employees were settled. Construction of the State's first privately managed correctional facilities was completed in December at Newport.

**1998** The Department of Correction began paying wages

owed for past compensatory time and overtime earned by correctional officers, with nearly \$7.2 million paid to more than 2,000 officers by the end of the fiscal year. The State's first privately managed prisons, both 600-bed facilities named for correctional officers killed in the line of duty, opened at Newport in January. The Grimes Unit houses youthful male offenders and the McPherson Unit holds female inmates. An expansion at the East Arkansas Regional Unit added 200 medium and 216 maximum beds. The Boot Camp was named "Best of the Best" by the American Correctional Association. The Board of Correction and Community Punishment adopted a grooming policy requiring inmates to have short haircuts and no beards. Collection of DNA samples began for inmates convicted of violent or sexual offenses after a new State law went into effect in August. Wilburn Henderson was executed by lethal injection July 8. Preparations began for the State's first lethal electrified fence, which was erected at the Cummins Unit. After raising more than \$185,000 in donations, the new chapel opened at the East Arkansas Regional Unit. A new school building opened at the Delta Unit in May. A GED graduation record was set when 865 inmates earned their GED in ADC classrooms.

**1999** The ADC and the Arkansas Crime Information Center activated the statewide VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) system. Construction began in September on a 468-bed addition at the Varner Unit, which will be the State's first Supermax facility. The janitorial products factory opened in September at the Delta Regional Unit. To keep its population from falling below 50,000, the City of Pine Bluff planned to annex the Pine Bluff Complex and its 1,400 inmates. In February, 36 correctional officers

were sworn in as certified law enforcement officers, the first ADC class to complete the training. Officer James D. Cannon was seriously injured in an attack by an inmate at the Maximum Security Unit. Johnie Michael Cox and Marion Pruett, were both executed by lethal injection on February 16 and April 12, respectively. Alan Willett and Mark Edward Gardner were executed by lethal injection September 8. Governor Mike Huckabee's commutation of Bobby Ray Fretwell's death sentence was the first for a death row inmate since December 1970. Governor Huckabee appointed Benny Magness and Drew Baker to the Board of Correction and Community Punishment. Legislation from the 1999 General Assembly placed responsibility for assessing sex offenders with the ADC and required Legislative Council and Board of Correction and Community Punishment review and approval prior to construction of any private correctional facility to house ADC, out of State or Federal inmates.

**2000** The Board of Correction and Community Punishment chose a 400-acre site in Malvern as the location of a medium security prison for males. Originally slated for 760 beds, the facility's size was increased to 948 beds. Several areas of operation for the ADC, in the Central Office, located on Princeton Pike in Pine Bluff, were relocated to the Brandon House Furniture building on East Harding Avenue, in Pine Bluff. The building was renamed the Administration Annex East, and it became the new home of Human Resources and Information Systems. As part of a new 20-year lease agreement with the county, the ADC began major renovations at the Mississippi County Work Release Center. The first 156 beds at the Varner Supermax opened. The housing area is the first of its kind in Arkansas, and a Federal grant

provided 90% of the construction costs. After 20 years in the old Barnes School building, the training academy moved next door to the Maximum Security and Tucker Units. In January, ADC went tobacco free for staff and inmates. All tobacco products were banned. Citing health and safety concerns, the BCCP implemented the ban after a one-year waiting period. The ban applies to buildings, areas inside perimeter fences and ADC vehicles. Construction of Arkansas's first lethal electrified fence was completed at the Cummins Unit. The fence, which carries 5,000 volts, was erected using inmate labor. Christina Riggs, convicted of killing her two children, was executed by lethal injection May 2, becoming the first female to be put to death by the State of Arkansas. David Dewayne Johnson was executed by lethal injection December 19. Dr. Mary Parker was selected as the new chair of the Board of Correction and Community Punishment, which also received two new members. Pastor J. Aaron Hawkins of Fayetteville and Bill Ferren of Pine Bluff were appointed to the board by Governor Huckabee. At the Tucker Unit, the department's last 100 man barracks was to be split into two smaller barracks. As part of its strategic plan and in preparation of performance based budgeting, the ADC developed a new Mission Statement, Guiding Principles and, Core Values. Sixty correctional officers were sworn in as certified peace officers, bringing the agency's total to approximately 100. The Constituent Services Office was created to enhance communication with the family and friends of inmates.

- 2001** In August, the name of the Board of Correction and Community Punishment was changed to the Board of Corrections, to reflect the name change of the Department of Community Punishment to the De-

partment of Community Correction. After three and a half years of managing the Grimes and McPherson Units, Wackenhut Corrections Corporation chose not to seek a contract renewal. The ADC assumed management of the facilities in July. Clay King Smith, sentenced to death in Jefferson County on five counts of capital murder, was executed by lethal injection May 8. The rate at which county jails are paid to house state inmates was increased from \$25 a day to \$28 by the Board of Corrections. To partially fund the increase, the reimbursement rate for Act 309 inmates was trimmed from \$25 a day to \$15. Kelly Pace was appointed to the Board of Corrections by Governor Mike Huckabee. For the first time, the three units at the Pine Bluff Complex were placed under the supervision of one warden. Institutional Parole Services was transferred from the Department of Correction to the Department of Community Correction. Gate money was increased from \$50 to \$100 by the Board of Corrections. An inmate search engine was added to the department's web site, allowing internet visitors to view information and pictures of any ADC inmates. The agency's construction and maintenance division was named "Best in the Business" by the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

**2002** Faced with the State's first budget cuts in 14 years, the ADC trimmed more than \$22 million from its operating budget. The 11 percent reduction in funding forced a six-month delay in opening the first phase of the new unit being constructed at Malvern and delayed opening 200 beds of the Grimes Unit expansion. Construction for 200 beds, for female inmates, were planned at the Wrightsville Unit, but put on hold due to the funding shortfall. More than \$1.2 million was paid out to ADC employees in bonuses through

the Career Ladder Incentive Program (CLIP) during FY2002 and 451 employees received CLIP promotions. After added emphasis was placed on recruitment and retention, turnover of entry-level correctional officers fell from 42 percent to 37.2 percent.

- 2003** In FY2003, ADC spent approximately \$44.11 per day to house each inmate almost a 4 percent increase over the previous year. Convicted murderer Riley Dobi Noel was executed July 9, by lethal injection at the Cummins Unit. The inmate population set a record high when it reached 13,099 in November 2002. More than 1,200 of the inmates were backed up in the county jails due to a lack of prison space. In December, Cummins became the first Arkansas prison to be in continuous operation for 100 years. Cummins received its first inmates by riverboat on December 13, 1902. A century later, it houses nearly 1,800 inmates and is the department's largest and oldest prison.
- 2004** During FY2004, Phase I of the Ouachita River Correctional Unit, with 316 beds, opened at Malvern. In Phases II and III, an additional 632 beds will be added to the medium security men's prison, expected to be completed in 2005. On January 6, convicted murder Charles Singleton was executed by lethal injection for the 1979 death of a Hamburg, AR grocer. He had spent 24 years on death row. The department received a \$3.8 million loan from the Arkansas Development Finance Authority to assist in building new processing plants at its prison farm and to restructure an existing loan. Plans called for using \$2 million of the loan to build a new milk processing plant and a meat processing and cold storage facility at the Cummins Unit. The remaining \$1.8 million was to be used to restructure a loan the department took



out in 1999 to pay for numerous projects. In June 2004, legislators approved funding for a new 200 bed women's unit at Wrightsville. Legislators first approved the project in 1999, but plans were halted in November 2001 because of budget reductions.

**2005** In FY2005, \$3 medical co-pay went into effect in an effort to reduce the number of frivolous sick-call visits and give medical staff more time to spend with those who are truly ill. More than \$39 million was approved during the 2005 legislation session to build a 850 bed Specials Needs Unit at the Ouachita River Correctional Unit in Malvern. Legislators also made the smuggling of a cell phone into a prison a Class B felony and expanded the customer base for Arkansas Correctional Industries. Employees of state agencies and institutions may purchase goods produced by ACI. New legislation also provided extra good time for inmates who earn a GED, complete drug treatment or receive a Vo-Tech training certificate. Inmates convicted of meth crimes after August 12, 2005 and sentenced under the 70 percent law will be allowed to earn good time, but not as much as other drug offenders. Lawmakers also approved a cost of living adjustment for employees for each year of the biennium and changed the name of the Post Prison Transfer Board to The Board of Parole. Construction of a factory got underway at the McPherson Unit for use by a private manufacturing company. Under the new private sector Prison Industry Enhancement Certification Program, the company has contracted with the ADC and will employ inmates at the facility. The Board of Corrections voted to establish The Inner-Change Freedom Initiative, a voluntary faith-based pre and post release program that is funded by private contributions. ADC continued to see growth in its prison population, especially

women. In August 2004, the number of female inmates backed up in county jails reached 200, setting a new record. An additional 316 beds, Phase II, opened at the Ouachita River Correctional Unit in December 2004. That unit, which opened its first 316 beds in August 2003, is set to have 948 beds when completed in 2005. The department also planned a 200-bed women's barrack at Wrightsville. In March 2005, the State Board of Corrections approved an Internet banking system that provides another way for friends and families of Arkansas inmates to put funds on their ADC account.

**2006** Construction began for the planned 200-bed women's facility at Wrightsville. The prison, adjacent the boot camp, will help accommodate the state's growing female inmate population. The facility will provide additional treatment space and additional housing for inmates assigned to the Special Needs Program. In May, the center was officially named the J. Aaron Hawkins Center for Women at Wrightsville as a memorial to Pastor J. Aaron Hawkins, who served on the Board of Corrections from April 12, 2000 until January 23, 2006. The center partially opened on May 4, 2006, admitting its first 25 inmates. The population had grown to 98 by the end of the month. In July 2005, the addition of a Mental Health Building opened at the McPherson Unit. This marked a positive step in dealing with mental health problems associated with the female inmate population. The building has offices for mental health staff and areas for confidential counseling and group meetings. A package of legislation to help the Arkansas Department of Correction deal with prison over crowding and increasing incarceration costs went into effect Aug. 12. The bills were sponsored by Senator Jim Luker and Representative Will Bond.

Included in the legislation is a measure that allows methamphetamine offenders serving 70 percent of their sentence to shorten their incarceration through good behavior. The change allows them to earn some good time, but they still must serve as least 50 percent of their original sentence. The change only affects offenders whose crime occurred after the law went into effect. Another new law allows inmates to earn 90 days good time for successful completion of drug treatment, GED education or vocational education. The Arkansas Department of Correction hosted the National Major Gang Task Force 11th Annual Training Conference in Little Rock on Sept. 11-14. James Gibson, ADC Internal Affairs Administrator, served as the organization's president. The NMGTF provides leadership and information within the criminal justice system to minimize the effects of security threat groups, gangs, and terrorists in prisons, jails, and communities. The four-day conference attracted criminal justice professionals from throughout the nation. The Arkansas State Employees Association named Roy Agee, intake supervisor at the Diagnostic Unit, Outstanding State Employee of the Year on Aug. 5 in Hot Springs. Selected from 43 nominees, Agee was recognized for his many contributions to the state and to the community. After Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, the ADC staff, employee associations and employees of Correctional Medical Services helped out with a variety of relief efforts including donations, fund-raisers, and volunteering at local shelters. In addition to donating to the Red Cross and other relief efforts, ADC and CMS employees provided more than \$23,000 to relief efforts for correctional officers in Louisiana and Mississippi. A new factory that is part of the Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) Program began operating at the McPherson Unit. PIE programs create

partnerships between private sector employers and detention facilities to help inmates receive job training and employment experience that will help them transition back into society. Actronix, Inc. was awarded the department's first PIE contract. It is an Arkansas-based company that manufactures cable assemblies, and harnesses for the technology industry. Inmates who qualify for the program are paid by the company and must send money to those they are supporting, donate to a crime victims' fund, and save some money. On Nov. 9, 2005, the Arkansas Board of Corrections approved \$40 million in bond money to fund an 862-bed special needs facility at the Ouachita River Correction Unit. The revenue bonds will be issued through the Arkansas Development Finance Authority. The Special Needs Unit (SNU) will be constructed in three phases, all utilizing inmate labor. When completed, the facility will house the department's special inmate populations including geriatrics, mental health, chronically ill, and disabled inmates. In February 2006, Wendy Kelley joined ADC as the new Deputy Director for Health and Correctional Programs. She previously served as a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Arkansas. During her 14-year tenure with the AG's office, Kelley often represented the department in court proceedings and she most recently represented the ADC in agreement with the United States Justice Department concerning continued improvements at the Newport Complex. She replaced Dr. Max Mobley, who retired in January after nearly 30 years with the agency. ADC teams won top honors at the 2006 Southern States Manhunt Field Trials on March 20-24 at Camp Robinson in North Little Rock. Some of those awards included First Place-Tucker Unit Single Lease and First Place - EARU - Multiple Lease and First Place - Cummins Unit-Pack Dogs.

The department swept the team marksmanship competition and the pack-dog competition. The Cummins pack won first place, the Tucker Unit took second, and East Arkansas Regional earned third. K9 Max, a bloodhound whose home is the Diagnostic Unit, was named "Best Looking Canine." The event drew 60 teams from six southern states. June 1, 2006, marked the dedication of the new Inner-Change Freedom Initiative (IFI) at the Tucker Unit. IFI is a voluntary program aimed at morally transforming inmates and helping them develop life skills needed for a successful re-entry to society. The faith-based program is funded mostly by churches. At the program's kick off, Governor Mike Huckabee delivered the key note address. "I'm thrilled about being able to get the Inner-Change Program here," the Governor said. "It's a wonderful thing. It's a program that is funded privately and it's of great benefit to the state."

**2007** Director Larry Norris was selected Outstanding Director of Corrections for 2006 by the Association of State Correctional Administrators. The department implemented a new working classification of Deputy Warden. The 200-bed J. Aaron Hawkins, Sr. Center for Women at Wrightsville was dedicated on Oct. 27, 2006. Videoconferencing equipment was installed at Delta Regional, East Arkansas, North Central, Grimes, Central Office and the Administration East Annex. The equipment will help with training and reduce travel time. Inmates in the Riverside Vo-Tech School helped build walls, kitchen cabinets and countertops for a Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity House. The Board of Corrections voted to expand the ADC's contract with Correctional Medical Services to include providing psychiatric care to inmates. Construction began on an 862-bed addition to the Ouachita River Correctional Unit for inmates

with special needs. The Innerchange Freedom Initiative program was dedicated on Dec. 1, 2006 at the Hawkins Center for Women. The faith-based program, which began at the Tucker Unit, is designed to help inmates change their lives and reduce the likelihood of returning to prison. Funded by churches and organizations, construction began on the chapel at the Maximum Security Unit. Soon after a powerful tornado ripped through Dumas on Feb. 24, 2007, staff members from the ADC headed to the community to help. Along with other agencies, they searched for victims and provided security in the area. Inmate work crews helped clear away debris. The ADC announced plans to start its own benevolent-type employee association called Arkansas Association of Correctional Employees Trust (AACET). The state legislature eliminated the Career Ladder Incentive Program, which encouraged employees to develop the skills necessary for effective job performance and become eligible for career advancement within the ADC. A similar program called the Merit Incentive/Promotion System (MIPS) replaced CLIP. Continuing a winning tradition, ADC teams won several top honors during the 2007 Southern State Field Trials. ADC took first place in Single Lease, Pack Dog, Narcotic Detection and Marksmanship. Construction began on the 200 female bed vocational technical and education wing at the McPherson Unit. Act 1692 went into effect. It expands sexual assault in the third degree to include "anyone employed or contracted with or otherwise providing services, supplies or supervision to any agency maintaining custody of inmates, detainees or juveniles."

**2008** ADC's training facility was dedicated as the Willis H. Sargent Training Academy on Aug. 23rd. Sargent

served as the first academy administrator and as a warden. Work began on the development of a water use/irrigation system at the Tucker Unit and Maximum Security Unit. The ADC received the coveted Golden Eagle Award. Presented at the American Correctional Association's 137th Annual Congress of Correction conference in August, the award is for those states whose institutions and programs are completely accredited by ACA. In September, the ADC launched a new employee benevolent association: the Arkansas Association of Correctional Employees Trust (AACET). The Information Technology Division began hiring technicians to provide onsite desktop support at each ADC unit and the agency introduced a new entrance monitoring system that will integrate with eOMIS. The system was first tested at the Varner and Delta Regional Units to monitor visitors. A pilot program that has inmates sewing glove liners for firefighters' leather gloves was launched at the Pine Bluff Unit by Arkansas Correctional Industries. ACI eventually wants the initiative to become a Prison Industry Enhancement Certification (PIE) program. PIE participants are paid and must send money to their dependents. They must also donate to the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund, save some money and pay child support, if applicable. The Varner Unit held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 2nd for its new mental health building. Patterned after the popular Phenomenal Woman Seminar, ADC held its first Distinguished Gentleman Seminar on Oct. 22nd. Family and friends of inmates were granted the option of pre-paying for inmates' calls using a credit card. Curtis Pittman, an inmate at the Maximum Security Unit, was convicted of three counts of indecent exposure Oct. 24 in Jefferson County District Court. It marked the first time that an inmate faced indecent exposure charges in court.

Inmates now face the possibility of having additional time added to their sentences if they are convicted of indecent exposure. The state agreed to purchase the former Jefferson County Jail (JCJ) adjacent to a correctional facility operated by the ADC in Pine Bluff. The 106-bed jail, which opened in 1991, was sold for \$3 million and was renamed the Randall L. Williams Correctional Facility, in honor of Randall L. Williams, a former Jefferson County circuit judge who had also served as chairman of the Board of Corrections. For the first time in four years, the ADC had more than 1,000 inmates being housed in county jails due to lack of prison space. AACET hosted the "Roasting of the Director" on Feb. 7th as a fundraiser for the association. The ADC surpassed its \$80,000 goal for the 2007 United Way campaign, generating \$88,710.02 in pledges and donations. A new 80-hour Field Rider Introductory Training Class was launched in February. Teams from the ADC collected some top awards in the Southern States Manhunt Field Trials in March: 1st Place, Single Leash Division; 1<sup>st</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Multiple Leash Division, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Pack Dog Division. A record 873 inmates earned their GED. The ADC, along with the Department of Community Correction and Arkansas Crime Information Center, offered the public the Arkansas Escape Alert System. It allows citizens living in the vicinity of a ADC unit, or DCC center, for automated notification in the event of an escape. Under an agreement reached in June, the ADC presented dozens of historical artifacts to the Old State House Museum. Roger Ferrell, a Regional Maintenance Lieutenant at the Mississippi County Work Release Center, was named Outstanding State Employee of the Year.

**2009** The Department of Correction opened 200 new beds



at the McPherson Unit in August and opened 100 beds of the Special Needs Unit at the Ouachita River Correctional Facility in May. The High School Correctional Program (HSCP) was initiated in partnership with the Department of Workforce Education, the American Correctional Association, and the National Center in Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security. This nationally recognized certification program for high school and community college students allows certified applicants to enter employment with the ADC as an Officer First Class. The ADC began collecting Driver's Licenses and other ID's for sentenced persons to ease the transition back to the community upon release. The Arkansas Escape Alert System was activated in February with an eOMIS interface that allows registered persons to receive notification of any escape and recapture. The development of the Electronic Sex Offender Management of Arkansas (eSOMA) created a real time interface between eOMIS and the ACIC Sex Offender Registry as a solution to sex offender management for the state. The ADC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Old State House Museum to provide ADC artifacts to be included in a display titled 'Badges, Bandits and Bars". In May there was a \$29,000,000 bond issue for construction of the McPherson Special needs Unit, the Tucker Wastewater treatment plant and several energy efficiency projects.

## **Services/Programs**

**Act 309 Program:** Contracts for housing and supervision of eligible state inmates in approved county and city jails for work purposes

**Agriculture:** Inmate work assignments and training in row and garden crop farming, animal husbandry, and food processing

**Alcoholics Anonymous, Cocaine Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous:** A system of recovery from substance abuse utilizing role models and a 12-step approach

**Anger Management:** Behavior modification program, using ACA's "Cage Your Rage," for inmates who consistently resort to violence rather than problem solving

**Boot Camp:** A military-style behavior modification program based on discipline, academic education and substance abuse education. Eligible inmates must volunteer to participate in the program

**College Program:** College courses are available for inmates at certain units, potentially leading to an Associate of Arts or Bachelor of Arts Degree

**Construction:** On the job training and work assignments for inmates through the construction and maintenance of department facilities

**Disciplinary Court:** An internal justice system for determining sanctions for rule violations involving inmates

**Intake Orientation:** Orientation for new inmates includes: assessment of educational, medical, physical, and psychological needs

**Food Services:** Inmate work assignments preparing meals for both inmates and staff

**Habilitation Program:** Housing, work supervision, and treatment at the Tucker Unit for developmentally disabled inmates

**HIV and TB Programs:** Prevention, tracking, case management, counseling, treatment, review, and research de-

signed to lessen the spread of infectious diseases

**Industry:** Inmate work assignments and on the job training in manufacturing settings producing goods and services for government and nonprofit agencies

**Inmate Panel:** Inmates are allowed to share their experiences with groups of children, teenagers, and adults

**Inner-Change Freedom Initiative (IFI):** is a voluntary Christ-centered and Values-based pre-release program that promotes transformation from the inside out

**Jaycees:** Inmate chapters of the community service organization chartered from the national Jaycees

**Library:** Hard cover and paperback books, reference materials, and periodicals provided for inmate use

**Medical Services:** Complete medical care for inmates including: sick call, hospitalization, surgery, dental, and eye care

**Mental Health Services:** Institution wide operations and services to include: Outpatient treatment and intervention for individuals and groups

**Parenting Program:** Inmate training in parenting and child care skills

**Pre-Release:** A 30-day training program to prepare inmates for their return to the community

**Reduction of Sexual Victimization Program (RSVP):** Residential treatment of compulsive sexual behaviors, particularly child molestation

**Religious Services:** Worship services, religious materials,

counseling, and crisis ministry for inmates

**School District:** Class A school district within the ADC, with GED potential for inmates

**Sheltered Living Unit:** Inmate housing for the elderly, chronically ill and/or for those recovering from acute illness

**Special Management Barracks:** Housing at the Cummins Unit for inmates with mental health management and counseling needs

**Special Programs Unit:** Housing, work supervision, and treatment for inmates with chronic mental difficulties

**Substance Abuse Therapeutic Community:** Comprehensive substance abuse treatment using a modified therapeutic community residential program

**Suicide Prevention:** Mental Health staff regulate assessments on segregated inmates identified with prior suicidal history for more than 30 days

**Vocational Education:** Vocational education in 24 areas of study, provided by Riverside Vocational Technical School and funded by the Department of Workforce Education

**Volunteer Services:** Volunteers provide a wide range of services including transportation of inmate families, twelve step support groups, and religious services

**Hobby Craft Program:** Inmates produce leather products, wooden crafts, cloth artifacts, and artwork, which are either for sale or gifts to family and friends

**Work Programs:** Inmates are assigned jobs throughout ADC that teach work skills and ethics. Inmates are assigned jobs in the community



# facts brochure

July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009

## *Honor and Integrity in Public Service*

**Vision Statement: To be an honorable and professional organization through ethical and innovative leadership at all levels, providing cost efficient, superior correctional services that return productive people to the community.**

*The **Mission Statement** of the Arkansas Department of Correction is to:*

- Provide public safety by carrying out the mandates of the courts;
- Provide a safe, humane environment for staff and inmates;
- Provide programs to strengthen the work ethic;
- Provide opportunities for spiritual, mental, and physical growth.

See our website for  
additional information  
<http://www.adc.arkansas.gov>