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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ADC releases post escape security review of private Kingman prison

Phoenix, Az.- Security lapses, including a faulty perimeter alarm, led to the escape of three inmates from the privately operated Kingman prison, an Arizona Department of Corrections security review released Thursday shows.

The review found numerous lapses in security at the prison operated by Utah-based Management & Training Corp (MTC). The complete report can be found on the ADC website, with a link at the bottom of this release.

“Human error and serious security lapses directly led to an escape of three inmates,” ADC Director Charles L. Ryan said. “The security at the prison did not meet ADC standards.”

In a letter to ADC, MTC committed to address each security lapse and follow all ADC policies.

“We are in agreement with the report and are committed as a company to make the corrections necessary to provide the level of security expected of all professionals in our business,” MTC senior vice president Odie Washington wrote in a letter to Ryan.

As Mr. Washington previously stated in an Aug. 13 letter to Director Ryan, "Management & Training Corporation accepts full responsibility for this escape."

Ryan said: "The public can rest assured that there is a commitment to correct the failures that have been identified. The department is committed to overseeing the implementation of all corrective actions."

In addition to the security review that has been completed, an administrative investigation into ADC employees continues. The internal investigation centers on why the security deficiencies that allowed the escape were not identified and reported by ADC staff.

The department's monitor in Kingman, an assistant deputy warden, was reassigned Aug. 13 to a Phoenix area institution pending the outcome of the investigation. Wade Woolsey, who oversaw contract beds, resigned Wednesday.

Until MTC demonstrates its ability to adhere to ADC security policies, the department moved 148 inmates from the Kingman facility. These inmates removed from the facility have convictions for murder or long sentences or a history of escape attempts. The inmates will be sent to various medium security facilities throughout the department.

"Until MTC shows the state its security practices adhere to the department's expectations, I will restrict the type of inmate housed at Kingman," Ryan said.

The Department ordered MTC to increase the amount of perimeter officers patrolling the facility, altered the shift change practices and curtailed inmate movement inside the Hualapai Unit.

Inmates convicted of murder have been housed at the Kingman prison since at least Dec. 13, 2007, and the facility began housing medium security inmates in May 2005.

Finally, Ryan expressed his condolences to the Haas family of Oklahoma. Gary and Linda Haas were killed and their bodies burned. There is forensic evidence that links the escapees to the crime. Ryan spoke with family and friends of the couple last week.

"I have personally spoken with family members of Mr. and Mrs. Haas to express my deepest condolences and sorrow at their tragic loss," Ryan said. "This tragedy was avoidable and should never have happened."

Following is the link to the report on the ADC website. http://www.azcorrections.gov/adc/news/2010/081910_ASP_Kingman_Security_Review.pdf

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