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DOC Welcomes New Leadership

Commissioner Phelps Selects New Bureau Chief of Prisons and Warden of James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) in Smyrna

Dover, DE – Delaware Department of Correction Commissioner Perry Phelps announced today that he has selected a new Chief of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and Warden of the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) in Smyrna.

Steven Wesley, the current Warden of the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) in Wilmington, has been chosen to serve as the Bureau Chief of Prisons. The mission of the Bureau of the BOP is to provide overall administrative support to prison facilities, which enforce judicial sanctions for offenders and detentioners in a safe, humane environment. It also provides protection for the public with incarceration and rehabilitation programs that address societal and offender needs.

Air Force Lt. Colonel Dana Metzger has accepted the position of Warden V at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Facility in Smyrna. JTVCC is the largest prison in the state of Delaware and houses up to 2,500 minimum, medium, and maximum security inmates. A multistate selection committee from Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Delaware assisted the Department of Correction in selecting a new Warden.

"Warden Wesley and Lt. Colonel Metzger are proven leaders who have earned the respect of their colleagues and communities over the course of their careers. I'm grateful to Lt. Col. Metzger for accepting the position of Warden and look forward to working with him in his new role at the DOC," said Commissioner Phelps. "I'm confident Steve Wesley will build on the momentum of my executive leadership team to ensure we continue to provide effective and creative programs and services to inmates while fulfilling our mission of upholding public safety."

Lt. Colonel Metzger has served in the United States Air Force for the past 22 years. He is currently stationed at the Dover Air Force Base and serves as the Commander of the 436th Security Forces Squadron. In this position, he oversees a force of 300 personnel providing combat support, emergency services, law enforcement, and security and

antiterrorism efforts. Lt. Colonel Metzger has served in many roles to include Operations Officer for the 437th Security Forces Squadron, Commander of the 65th Security Forces Squadron, Commander of the 823rd Base Defense Squadron and Deputy Division Chief of Security Force Operations. He earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master's Degree from the American Military University. He has completed several military courses and trainings including the Security Forces Command Advanced Officer Course, the FBI LEEDA Executive Command and Strategic Leadership Course, and the Air Force Incident Management Course.

Mr. Wesley became Warden IV of HRYCI in 2014. Prior to that, he was Warden III of New Castle County Community Corrections for six years and worked in various leadership positions in the Delaware Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services. Before coming to Delaware, Warden Wesley was a police officer with the Fremont and Oakland Police Departments. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Delaware. Wesley has earned numerous awards and commendations and has successfully completed nearly two dozen law enforcement trainings. He is a member of the American Correctional Association and the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents and teaches at Wilmington University as well as Springfield College in Wilmington. He replaces Chris Klein, who is assuming the position of Deputy Principal Assistant at the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security.

"I am very pleased with the experience, knowledge, skills, and abilities Chris will bring to the Department. I am looking forward to working with him to build upon our strengths, support our dedicated staff, and implement innovative ideas to support our mission to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware." Secretary Coupe said

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