

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by **Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations**

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DOC announces promotion to Major at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution

Dover, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announced today that Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (BWCI) Captain Syrita Williams has been promoted to the rank of Major. In her new position Major Williams serves as a member of the Warden's senior leadership team and the facility's *Security Superintendent* with day-to-day responsibility for maintaining safety and security for correctional officers, staff, and inmates.

“Major Williams has distinguished herself through more than 20 years of service to the Department of Correction and she has earned this promotion by demonstrating her eagerness to serve and her willingness to lead,” **Bureau of Prisons Chief Shane Troxler said.**

“I want to recognize Major Williams for continually taking on new challenges by embracing positions of increasing responsibility and for pursuing specialized training throughout her career to support DOC's dual public safety and reentry mission,” **said Deputy Bureau of Prisons Chief Paul Shavack.**

Major Williams is a 21-year DOC veteran who started her correctional career at BWCI. She quickly advanced through the ranks, being promoted to Corporal at BWCI before transferring to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) in 2005 through a promotion to Sergeant where she led a security team. In 2010 she was promoted to Corporal at New Castle County Community Corrections where she led the first all-female road crew for the northern DOC region and served on the facility's specialized Emergency Response Team. She returned to BWCI in 2012 as a Lieutenant with increasing security responsibilities and was promoted again to Captain (2015). Her positions of responsibility at BWCI have included Shift Commander, Unit Commander, Security Threat Group (STG) Investigator, Human Trafficking Liaison, adjunct instructor for Working with Female offenders, and Disciplinary Hearing Officer. She has held positions on several inmate classifications boards. Major Williams has completed numerous leadership development courses and specialized training programs, including Conducting Security Audits, Gender Matters: Effective Operations and Management of Women's Prisons, Safety Matters: Managing Relationships in Women's Facilities, Creating a Trauma Informed Correctional Environment, Sex Crime Investigations, Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques; Motivational Interviewing, PREA Investigations, and multiple trainings and seminars in Human Trafficking and Security Threat Groups.

The Baylor Women's Correctional Institution, the only women's prison in the state, opened in December, 1991. The facility houses both pre-trial and sentenced adult females at minimum, medium, and maximum security levels. BWCI provides programming at all security levels. Programming provides offenders with opportunities to gain knowledge, acquire skills and learn an alternative life-style. BWCI provides treatment services, religious services, drug therapy, educational/vocational programs, counseling, and recreation.

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