



# NEWS RELEASE

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

### Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson, Jr.

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

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## Four Department of Correction leaders promoted to new positions

**Dover, DE** – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) announced today that Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons Paul Shavack has been appointed to the newly established position of Department of Correction Chief of Staff, Howard R. Young Correctional Institution Warden Kolawole Akinbayo has been promoted to Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons, Baylor Women’s Correctional Institution (BWCI) Warden Brian Emig has been appointed Warden of Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI), and Deputy Warden of Special Operations Michael Merson has been promoted to Warden of the Special Operations Group (SOG). All appointments become effective on October 24.

“The Department of Correction leans on capable, experienced, and driven leaders to provide strong guidance and support to our officers and staff, maintain safety and security in our facilities, and ensure that we are meeting the basic needs, treatment, and rehabilitation programming for the men and women under our supervision,” **said Commissioner Monroe B. Hudson Jr.** “We have highly skilled men and women in positions of responsibility all across our Department and today I congratulate four accomplished DOC veterans who are ready to step up and take on new challenges and responsibilities to serve the public.”

Incoming **Chief of Staff Paul Shavack** joined the Department of Correction in 2017 following a 26 year career with the Delaware State Police where he first served as a Trooper assigned to Troop 1, followed by a Trooper Paramedic with the DSP Aviation Section and as a Special Operations Response Team (SORT) Medic. He rose through the ranks in the Aviation Section, earning a promotion to Sergeant in 2000 and assignment as the Trooper Medic Commander. Throughout the rest of his DSP career he served in numerous leadership roles including Troop 2 Shift Commander, New Castle County Governor’s Task Force Commander, and Director of Public Information at DSP Headquarters. After joining the DOC as a Training Administrator in 2017 he was promoted to Training Administrator II in February 2018 and Director of Training in April 2018. In March 2019 [he was promoted to Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons](#), where he also served as the Bureau’s Public

Information Officer. In 2021 he assumed the additional responsibility of Department of Correction Legislative Liaison. As Chief of Staff in the Office of the Commissioner, Shavack will continue to serve as the Department's legislative liaison and serve as Public Information Officer. He will additionally facilitate internal and external strategic partnerships, advise the Commissioner on a range of policy and program areas, and provide centralized Department-wide leadership and coordination across DOC bureaus, with state agencies and external partners to advance major initiatives, develop and implement policies, and evaluate and spearhead the rollout of new programs. Deputy Chief Shavack also brings more than two decades of military experience after serving with the Delaware Air National Guard as a First Sergeant deploying in support of Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Shula Dragon in South America. He retired from the Delaware Air National Guard in 2004 at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons Kolawole Akinbayo, HRYCI Warden Brian Emig, and Warden of Special Operations Michael Merson all report to the Bureau Chief of Prisons. "Deputy Bureau Chief Akinbayo, Warden Emig, and Warden Merson have committed their careers to the Department of Correction and have truly earned their promotions. They are excellent leaders who can manage highly complex operations, effectively lead large numbers of staff, and keep their teams focused on meeting our overall public safety and reentry mission," **Bureau Chief of Prisons Shane Troxler said.**

Incoming **Deputy Chief of Prisons Kolawole Akinbayo** has served as Warden of Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) since 2017. He joined the DOC in 2005, completed his academy training, and was assigned to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), the state's largest prison facility. While at JTVCC he earned promotions to Corporal (2006), Sergeant (2007), Lieutenant (2009), and Staff Lieutenant (2011), with increasing levels of responsibility over security operations and staff supervision. In 2014 he was promoted to Captain at HRYCI where he was responsible for planning and directing security, control, and safety programs at the facility. He was promoted to Major at HRYCI in 2016, where he served as a member of the Warden's senior leadership team and as the facility's *Security Superintendent* with day-to-day responsibility for maintaining safety and security for correctional officers, staff, and inmates. As Warden since 2017 he has been responsible for overall management of security and administrative staff, programming, treatment, planning, budgeting and administrative functions, and collaboration with facility healthcare providers. Among Delaware's four prison facilities HRYCI holds the largest population of detentioners awaiting trial while also housing a large number of sentenced inmates, primarily short-term sentences and more than 100 inmates enrolled in DOC's intensive residential level substance abuse treatment programs. As Warden, Akinbayo has overseen investments in modernized security camera system, rollout of a new substance abuse treatment curriculum on-site, physical improvements to treatment and training program areas, expanded Adult Basic Education and vocational training offerings, and participation in the innovative [Prison Research and Innovation Network](#) which is working to evaluate and implement data-driven evidence-based operational and program innovations impacting officers, staff, and inmates. He has earned National Institute of Corrections Leadership Certification, participated in specialized trainings including the Warden Peer Interaction Program, Law Enforcement Investigation Support System (LEISS) and Management Development for the Future, completed Emergency Management Institute and FBI-LEEDA training programs, and attended the Correctional Management Institute of Texas and Executive Leadership Institute. Deputy Bureau Chief Akinbayo has received the DOC New Badge

Officer of the Year and Wardens and Bureau of Prisons Awards. He has earned several academic degrees, including a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the College of Technology, Nigeria, West Africa, Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Delaware Technical Community College, Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science from Wilmington University, and a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice from Wilmington University. He is currently enrolled in a Master's in Management program at Wilmington University.

Incoming **Howard R. Young Correctional Institution Warden Brian Emig** [has served as Warden of Baylor Women's Correctional Institution since 2019](#). Warden Emig brings 20 years of correctional experience and more than 15 years of leadership experience to this position. Warden Emig completed his Correctional Officer Academy training in 2002 and his early career saw assignments to Howard R. Young Correctional Institution (HRYCI) and Plummer Community Corrections Center (PCCC). While at HRYCI promoted to Sergeant (2006), and then to Lieutenant at PCCC (2009) where he served as a Shift Commander with supervision responsibilities for ten security staff. He returned to HRYCI in 2011 with increased responsibilities, including supervision of 60 security staff members, facility Education Liaison, and active member of multiple classification review boards. In 2014 he was promoted to Captain at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (BWCI) where he commanded multiple work shifts. In 2015 he was promoted to Major at BWCI, where he served as a member of the Warden's senior leadership team and as the facility's *Security Superintendent* with day-to-day responsibility for maintaining safety and security for correctional officers, staff, and inmates. In 2018 he was further promoted to BWCI Deputy Warden with overall management responsibility for facility operations. As Warden since 2019 Emig directs all administrative functions and institutional programs and the application of laws, policies, and operating procedures, prepares and manages the institutional budget, collaborates with the facility's healthcare contractor and educational program provider, and leads facility interactions with a variety of agencies, the judiciary, law enforcement, and public officials and stakeholders. Warden Emig served as a member of the Department's Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) from 2005 through 2013, advancing to CERT Team Leader in 2009. He has completed specialized certifications through the National Institute of Corrections in facility operations and management, prison security auditing, leadership, and staffing analysis. He has served as a Quick Response Team Instructor and Emergency Preparedness Instructor. He also completed the FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership certification and the North American Association of Wardens and Superintendents Wardens Peer Interaction Program and is enrolled in the Wilmington University Criminal Justice Bachelor's Degree program.

Incoming **Special Operations Group Warden Merson** is a 31-year DOC veteran who completed his Academy training and joined the DOC as a Correctional Officer in 1991 after serving in the United States Army. He has served assignments in the Bureau of Prison's at James T. Vaughn Correctional Center where he earned the rank of Corporal in 1994 working in several capacities later transferring to SOG in 1998 to work on the Court & Transportation Unit earning the rank of Lieutenant in 2004 and Captain in 2009. Merson later was named Central Intelligence Group (CIG) Commander where he helped develop the Gang/Security Treat Group program and developed the current Gangs 101 training provided to Cadets at the Steven R. Floyd Training Academy. During this time he secured his clearance with the FBI and served as a Task Force Officer with the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Merson was promoted to Major of SOG in 2017 and was responsible for the daily operations of the Court & Transportation Unit, Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT), CIG, K9 Training Division, and assisted SOG Warden Metzger in [establishing DOC's statewide Intelligence Operations Center \(IOC\)](#). During this time he represented the DOC as a

member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), Statewide Interoperability Committee and subcommittee and has worked to upgrade the radio system currently deployed by the DOC. Merson has participated in numerous specialized trainings to include Certified Gang Investigator, Delaware State Police Interviewing and Interrogation and Fire Arms Instructor. [Merson was promoted to Deputy Warden of the Special Operations Group in June, 2022.](#) The Special Operations Group within the Bureau of Prisons is a specialized unit that is responsible for DOC's central intelligence operations, [the Steven R. Floyd Training Academy, Correctional Emergency Response Teams, Escapee Recovery Teams, K-9 Units, the Mobile Command Post and Court and Transportation Units.](#) Merson replaces Special Operations Group Warden Dana Metzger who retired from state service this past summer.

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