



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One MCTC Officer Charged, Another Resigns Amid Contraband Probe

Investigators Believe Officer Had Been Smuggling Tobacco Products for Inmates

TOWSON, MD (February 4, 2009)---One correctional officer from the Maryland Correctional Training Center near Hagerstown has been charged criminally, and a second has resigned, as the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) investigates an alleged contraband scheme which had an officer or officers delivering tobacco products to inmates.

Correctional Officer Timothy Parks, Jr., who joined the Division of Correction in 2006, faces a charge of possessing contraband with the intent to deliver it within a place of confinement, the maximum penalty for which is three years in prison and/or a \$1,000 fine. Parks is currently on administrative leave pending termination. A second officer has resigned from MCTC amid the probe.

Intelligence unit officers within the Division of Correction had developed information and were working with the DPSCS Internal Investigative Unit to monitor what appeared to be an ongoing effort to deliver tobacco and rolling papers to inmates at the medium-security facility, which houses approximately 2,580 inmates.

Because the investigation is ongoing, and because the resignation of the second officer is a personnel matter, DPSCS will not release the second officer's name.

Delivering contraband to inmates, whether tobacco, cell phones, alcohol, or weapons, creates a dangerous environment for correctional staff because contraband can be traded and sold, with violence sometimes breaking out over control of the products.

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