



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

DPSCS To Close Herman L. Toulson Correctional Facility

Employees Will Fill Vacancies Elsewhere; Positions Will Be Abolished

TOWSON, MD (August 26, 2009)--The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services will close the Herman L. Toulson Correctional Facility in Jessup by March 1, 2010 as an effort to contribute to the State's belt-tightening during these difficult economic times.

The facility, formerly the State's boot camp for young offenders, opened in 1990. It was named after a correctional officer who was slain at the old Maryland State Penitentiary in the 1980s. In recent times, the facility has operated not as a boot camp, but as a standard minimum-security facility.

Though their current positions will be abolished upon the facility's closure, eliminating 88 State positions ---or "pins"--- none of the 88 uniformed officers and support staff at Toulson will lose their jobs. All will fill vacancies ---most in the Jessup region--- which occur as a result of normal DPSCS employee retirements.

Additionally, the Department will continue to reduce the number of inmates at the Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC) in Baltimore, another minimum-security pre-release center, by moving some inmates to other facilities. Together, the closure of Toulson and the population reduction at MTC are expected to save the State \$4.7 million annually.

Beginning about the time Toulson opened, boot camps were proliferating across the United States. By 1995, 75 adult boot camps operated in the U.S. But their success was much debated, and in recent years, they have fallen out of favor in many states. The Toulson facility ceased actual boot camp operations earlier this year.

###