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Lockdown of Units 29 and 30 Lifted at Parchman

JACKSON – Visitation and other privileges have been reinstated for inmates at Units 29 and 30 at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Lockdown of the two units, housing more than 2,000 inmates collectively, was lifted this week after investigations of inmate-on-staff assaults and the introduction of contraband were completed.

A majority of the 29 staff members assaulted so far this year work at Parchman. One officer was recently assaulted with a food tray. Another was attacked with a broom handle in January is still off work.

“I have zero tolerance for assaults on staff,” Commissioner Marshall Fisher said. “We will continue to take disciplinary action as we see fit until the inmates decide to police themselves. Nothing happens in a vacuum. One incident could involve multiple inmates at the same prison or at another. We don’t know that until we investigate. If the inmates comply with the rules, lockdowns won’t be necessary.”

The discovery of contraband prompted lockdowns not only at Parchman but also at the other two state prisons.

Building 720 at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in Rankin County is currently on lockdown as a result of contraband found Thursday evening.

In addition to restricted movement and no visitation, commissary and telephone privileges also are suspended during lockdowns.

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