

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Corrections Department

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NEWS RELEASE
April 17, 2009

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PENITENTIARY OF NEW MEXICO PASSES CORRECTIONAL AUDIT WITH FLYING COLORS

SANTA FE, NM - The American Correctional Association (ACA) Audit Committee has completed its audit of the Penitentiary of New Mexico (PNM) in Santa Fe. PNM passed the audit with a 100 percent compliance of all mandatory standards and a 99.7 percent compliance of non-mandatory standards, missing compliance on only one non-mandatory standard.

The ACA Audit Committee conducted the standards compliance audit on April 15-17, 2009. After touring the facility, reviewing documentation and conducting interviews with staff and inmates, the committee complimented PNM on fulfilling its obligations to offenders, staff, and the community. The staff was also complimented on their professionalism, as they do a difficult job daily.

The Penitentiary of New Mexico was evaluated on 533 standards covering areas of prison operations including: sanitation, medical, programs and security. The ACA auditors were chairman, Jeff Ropers from Kentucky, Mary Smith from Colorado and Linda Derise from Louisiana. The audit team will present its recommendations and report to the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections Panel in Nashville, Tenn. in August 2009. At this time, a final decision will be made to determine PNM's accreditation status and score. The accreditation panel, more often than not, follows the auditors' recommendation. Each accreditation is good for three years.

PNM has approximately 864 inmates and 500 staff. The facility is a minimum-restrict and maximum-security prison, incarcerating inmates classified as Level II, V and VI.

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