

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Central Office Administration: 4337 State Road 14, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
Post Office Box 27116, Santa Fe, NM 87502-0116
Main Number (505) 827-8600 Fax (505) 827-8533
www.corrections.state.nm.us

Bill Richardson, Governor
Diane Denish, Lt. Governor



Administrative Services	(505) 827-8601
Adult Prisons	(505) 827-8767
Corrections Industries	(505) 827-8838
General Counsel	(505) 827-8698
Information Technology	(505) 827-8713
Probation and Parole	(505) 827-8830
Reentry & Prison Reform	(505) 827-8509
Training Academy	(505) 827-8900

Joe R. Williams

Secretary of Corrections (505) 827-8884

Jolene M. Gonzales

Deputy Secretary of Administration (505) 827-8667

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Contact: Rosie Sais
Public Information Office
505-629-9493

Correctional Officers Receive Medals of Valor
Awards Highlight National Correctional Officers' Week

Santa Fe, NM óTwo correctional officers have received medals for courageous acts displayed in the line of duty while working at the Penitentiary of New Mexico Level VI facility.

Lt. Joseph Pacheco and **Capt. Adino Castillo**, of Santa Fe, were awarded Medals of Valor during a Correctional Officers' Week awards ceremony May 4, 2010 at the Penitentiary of New Mexico in Santa Fe. Lt. Pacheco and Capt. Castillo were awarded Medals of Valor for their response to a life-threatening gang-related incident that occurred in the recreation yard at the Penitentiary of New Mexico, Level IV facility on July 28, 2008. Lt. Pacheco and Capt. Castillo were called to the recreation pens and acted quickly and decisively to stop the disturbance by deploying tear gas into the area.

Corrections Department employees are eligible to earn the Medal of Valor for demonstrating acts of bravery under extraordinary or unusual circumstances. To be eligible for this award, the employee shall have displayed courage in the face of potential peril while saving or attempting to save the life of another person, or distinguish himself or herself by performing in stressful situations with exceptional posture and judgment. The Medal of Valor is the department's second highest award.



*Pictured left to right: PNM Warden George Tapia, Capt. Adino Castillo, Lt. Joseph Pacheco, and NMCD Secretary Joe R. Williams