NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES
CLOSURE OF ONE HOUSING UNIT AT WINFIELD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AS PART OF ONGOING BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz today announced that the 176 capacity "B" Housing Unit at Winfield Correctional Facility (WCF) will be taken off-line effective March 7, 2009 in an effort to meet budget reductions for the current fiscal year. WCF is a minimum security facility with three housing units, designated "A", "B" and "C".

"The Winfield Correctional Facility opened in 1984 as a 141 bed pre-release center," Secretary Werholtz said. "As the inmate population has grown over the years, Winfield has grown as well, and currently has a capacity for 554 minimum custody male inmates and a population of 423. Now the inmate population systemwide has decreased to a point where we can relocate more than 100 inmates to open beds at Winfield and reduce our staffing expenditures by an estimated $160,000 in Fiscal Year 2009. In the event that the unit remains off-line for all of Fiscal Year 2010, we expect to save an estimated $592,000."

Taking "B" Housing Unit off-line will allow the Department to reduce staffing at Winfield by 16 Full Time Equivalent positions. All of the impacted employees are still on original probationary status. The Department will be working with affected staff at Winfield to assist with future employment alternatives.

Inmates who are not relocated to other housing units at Winfield will be transferred to other facilities throughout the system where available capacity currently exists. "Should the inmate population increase in the future to a point where 'B' Unit needs to be re-opened, it is our intent to do so," Secretary Werholtz said. "This is a temporary measure that will allow us to reduce our budget during this difficult economic period."

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