



An employee publication of the
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

July/August 2014

Volume 21 Issue 6

Agency News

ACA recognizes TDCJ's full accreditation with Golden Eagle Award

In August, during the 144th Congress of Correction Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) was recognized by the American Correctional Association (ACA) with the Golden Eagle Award. The ACA presents the prestigious Golden Eagle to criminal justice agencies that have achieved accreditation of all aspects of agency operations, to include accreditation of every facility under its jurisdiction.

The ACA's standards are national benchmarks for secure and effective operations of correctional departments, and agencies must be at least 90 percent compliant with these standards to be considered for the Golden Eagle. In addition to numerous standards applicable to individual correctional facilities, ACA standards address other functions such as parole, training and central administration. According to the ACA, the Golden

Eagle award represents the highest commitment to excellence in correctional operations and the dedication of the agencies to enhancing public safety and the well-being of incarcerated individuals.

The accreditation process begins with an agency request to have a facility or department audited. ACA staff members tour the facility and present the agency with a preliminary audit report, detailing any areas of

noncompliance which must be addressed. The ACA audits more than a thousand professional standards that apply to TDCJ, and during the accreditation process agency staff works closely with the ACA Standards and Accreditation department.

TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston, who accepted the award on behalf of the agency and its employees, said such an achievement would not have been possible

without dedicated and talented staff throughout the department.

"You cannot obtain system-wide accreditation through the efforts of a few people, and that is especially true for an organization as large and diverse as TDCJ," said Livingston. "This award reflects the contributions of thousands of employees with varied responsibilities, each critical to the success of the agency. As always, I am grateful for their hard work and public service." ●



TDCJ senior staff accepts the ACA Golden Eagle Award. From left to right, Correctional Institutions Division Director Bill Stephens, Private Facilities Contract Monitoring Oversight Division Director Oscar Mendoza, Executive Director Brad Livingston, Deputy Executive Director Bryan Collier, Health Services Division Director Lannette Linthicum, Administrative Review and Risk Management Division Director Paul Morales, and Manufacturing and Logistics Division Director Bobby Lumpkin.

photo courtesy of the American Correctional Association