

STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**MEXICAN CORRECTIONS INSTRUCTORS GRADUATE FROM  
NM TRAINING ACADEMY**

*--NMCD helps Mexico establish first federal corrections academy--*

**Santa Fe-** On Friday April 24, twenty-four federal correctional instructors from Mexico will graduate from the New Mexico Corrections Department's (NMCD) Training Academy in Santa Fe. The officers will return home, and serve as the first cadre of instructors at Mexico's first-ever corrections academy in Xalapa, Veracruz.

In June, the freshly trained instructors will begin teaching their first basic academy class of 200 new cadets. In Mexico, there are six federal penitentiaries, operated by the Secretariat for Public Safety, with a federal inmate population of approximately 50,000. Mexico has approximately 168,000 prisoners under state jurisdictions.

The Mexican correctional cadets began their six-week training class at the NMCD Training Academy on March 16. The cadets received basic instruction for four weeks, defensive tactics instructor course for one week, and during the final week, they received train-the-trainer instruction. Graduation is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the NMCD Training Academy gymnasium, located at 4337 State Road 14. Special dignitaries from Mexico and the U.S. State Department will be present.

NMCD and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs have a Memorandum of Understanding that allows the Corrections Department to train and mentor prison staff from Mexico and Central America. Prison administrators from El Salvador and Honduras have also received intermittent training from NMCD.

**Note: For security reasons, neither photography nor videotaping of the graduating officers' faces is allowed. Reporters planning to attend the ceremony must contact Tia Bland in advance.**

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