

**Joe Schmidt**

*Commissioner*

P.O. Box 112000

Juneau, AK 99811-2000

[www.corrections.state.ak.us](http://www.corrections.state.ak.us)



**Richard Schmitz**

*Special Assistant*

907.465.4640

cell: 907.209 5245

[richard.schmitz@alaska.gov](mailto:richard.schmitz@alaska.gov)

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

No. 09-097

March 19, 2009

### **DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR OUT-OF-STATE INMATE HOUSING CONTRACTS**

JUNEAU – In February, the Alaska Department of Corrections sent out letters to Western states soliciting interest in competing for our out-of-state prison contract. The department has received several responses from both state systems as well as private contractors.

At present, the department houses 870 Prisoners at the Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona. The department's contract with Corrections Corporation of America, which owns the prison, is renewed annually, on June 30.

"We are committed to providing the best and most efficient Correctional practice" said Commissioner Joe Schmidt. "We have received a number of responses to our queries and we are now evaluating those proposals. We are looking at a number of factors such as per bed costs, cost of transportation, and opportunities for reform."

Evaluation of the responses will determine if the Department goes to the next step which would be the issuance of an RFP (Request for Proposal). If the department makes the decision to issue an RFP, this action would occur in approximately two weeks.

