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CID Director Thaler retires, Stephens selected as new director

In May, 33-year veteran of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) Rick Thaler retired from his position as director of the agency's Correctional Institutions Division. Thaler began his career as a correctional officer at the Huntsville Unit and promoted through the ranks, serving as warden, regional director, and most recently, director of TDCJ's Correctional Institutions Division (CID). As CID director, he oversaw the daily operations of the agency's prison units and correctional staff.



Rick Thaler

Reflecting on his career with TDCJ, Thaler praised agency staff. "It has been an extreme pleasure to serve with the many men and women who are committed to providing public safety for this state. I truly believe that Texas is blessed to have the most dedicated and professional correctional staff in the world. It has been an honor to work beside these individuals for the last 33 years."

Taking his place as director of CID is Bill Stephens, another veteran TDCJ employee. Stephens began his career in 1981 as a correctional officer at the Wynne Unit and has advanced through nearly every security position in the agency. He began serving as CID Region II director in 2005. Since 2009, Stephens has supervised operation of all six CID

regions while serving as Deputy Director of Prison and Jail Operations.

Congratulating Stephens on his promotion to director of the Correctional Institutions Division, TDCJ Executive Director Brad Livingston said, "His strong leadership experience working in virtually all of the key frontline security responsibilities in this agency will serve him and the agency well as he transitions to this critical function." ●



Bill Stephens