

## Evaluators Heap Kudos On Ludlow Jail, Staffers

The Hampden County Correctional Center has received a near-perfect score from a team of professional evaluators.

"It's probably one of the best facilities that I ever set foot in, to tell you the truth," reported Capt. Charles F. Poff, Jr., chief services officer for the Roanoke, Va., City Sheriff's Office, yesterday.

He led a three-member team that spent three days visiting the jail.

In an oral report to the staff, Poff said the facility received a score of 99.5 out of 100 in the accreditation evaluation of more than 400 standards.

A vote for accreditation is expected in January.

"This is the most non-complaining group of inmates I have ever had the pleasure of talking to," Poff said.

He has audited jails in seven states.

Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr. asked for and received the facility's first accreditation three years ago.

Sheriff's Department spokesman Richard McCarthy said that accreditation helps protect the jail against lawsuits, which benefits taxpayers. The accreditation audit costs \$9,400.

Accreditation team member Rick A. Hudley of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections said that he has done about 20 audits.

"My assessment is that this would be a good place to work," he said. "This is probably the most compassionate group of correctional practitioners I've come across."

