

# NEWSRELEASE

Montana Department of Corrections • 5 S. Last Chance Gulch  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Offender walks away from boot camp**

An offender walked away from the Treasure State Correctional Training Center on Tuesday night and was apprehended without incident about five hours later in nearby Deer Lodge.

Greg Budd, superintendent of the boot camp, said that Zachary Ryan Gustafson, 21, walked away from the boot camp shortly before 9 p.m. He was arrested by Powell County sheriff's deputies shortly after 2 a.m., following a search that involved the sheriff's office, Montana Highway Patrol and staff from Montana State Prison staff and the boot camp.

Gustafson, who had been at the boot camp since June 8, was sentenced in May to 10 years for aggravated assault in Powell County. He is expected to be charged with escape.

Treasure State, a 60-bed alternative to prison, is located on Montana State Prison property just east of Deer Lodge. Volunteers accepted into the highly disciplined, military-style program spend 90-120 days undergoing intensive programming in victimology, victim impact, criminal thinking errors, parenting, anger management, substance abuse treatment and academic schooling.

An average stay at the facility costs about a seventh of the average length of stay in prison.

The boot camp, operating at its current site since 1997, has had two previous escapes, one in 2002 and one in 2004. Both men were apprehended shortly after their escapes.

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