THE IRON TRIANGLE

But McNeil said the latest incident did not reflect systemic institutional deficiencies in the nation's third largest prison system. He said the vast majority of the 28,000 employees in the system are responsible, and noted that staff members reported the beating to their superiors.

Prison officials did not identify the inmate, citing federal health laws on confidentiality, or discuss his injuries. They said he is a 47-year-old white man who is doing time for drug offenses, and that he first explained his injuries by saying he had fallen.

Union Correctional Institution in Raiford, with a population of 2,012 inmates, is one of three large prisons that make up the "Iron Triangle" in rural north-central Florida. The officers placed on leave Thursday were Lt. Bennett Kilgore, 40; Sgt. Aaron Coleman, Sgt. Eugene McLemore and four guards: John Carter, Derek Gibstein, Sean Johnson and John Thomas. The nurses who were fired, also on Thursday, were Alicia Bettylou Forsyth, Zelda Mae Lee, Catherine Collinwood and Tony Davis. McNeil said they were fired for violating policy but declined to elaborate, citing the ongoing investigation.

Source: Miami Herald