

CONDITIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF DETENTION FACILITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

SUMMARY

Among the duties of the San Diego County Grand Jury is the mandated inspection of the County's detention facilities. These inspections are required by California Penal Code §919(b) and serve more than one purpose. To fulfill this mandate, the 2006-2007 Jury visited seven detention facilities under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Department and five operated by the San Diego County Probation Department. In addition, the Jury visited nine law enforcement holding facilities, plus the January 22, 2007, visit to the Chula Vista City Jail where occupancy was well below capacity and the facility well-maintained.

Facilities are also inspected by other agencies for fire safety and for environmental, medical/mental and nutritional health issues. Additionally, the facilities are checked by the Corrections Standard Authority (CSA) of the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

PURPOSE

The primary duty of the jury is to inquire into the conditions and management of these facilities. When appropriate, the Jury makes recommendations for improvement and comments on both favorable and unfavorable conditions. Secondly, it provides general information about staff needs and treatment of inmates.

PROCEDURES

In order to standardize the inspection procedure, a form was produced to ensure the same general questions would be asked and the same areas reviewed. (The checklist is included in this report as an addendum, Appendix A, and was used during all visits as applicable).

In most cases, more than half of the Grand Jury members were involved in facility visits. In all cases, at least the required number of jurors (no fewer than two) attended. Information was gathered from several sources: websites, documents from CSA, prior Grand Jury reports, newspaper articles and brochures and handouts from the different facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

07-80: Continue the ongoing recruitment efforts and establish a task force or consider hiring a consultant to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing referred to in several individual detention facility reports.

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

07-81: Continue the ongoing recruitment efforts and establish a task force or consider hiring a consultant to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing referred to in several individual detention facility reports.

TEMPORARY HOLDING CELL FACILITIES VISITED

Coronado Police Department

El Cajon Police Department

La Mesa Police Department

National City Police Department

San Diego Police Department (Qualcomm Stadium)

San Diego Police Department (Southern Division)

Alpine Sheriff's Substation

Imperial Beach Sheriff's Substation

Santee Sheriff's Substation

SAN DIEGO SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

DESCANSO DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury inspected the San Diego County Sheriff's Department Descanso Detention Facility (DDF) on November 8, 2006.

Facility staff provided the members a "Daily Inmate Population Report" with an orientation to the DDF facility. The all-male adult (18-years-old or older) inmate population was 348, 79% of the rated capacity of 440. Only inmates in good health are incarcerated at DDF. Individuals with medical or psychiatric problems are transferred to other facilities for treatment. Inmates are briefed on the facility rules and regulations upon arrival. These rules and regulations are also prominently posted. There is an established grievance procedure.

DDF is a minimum security facility on 14 acres in a camp-like setting. The inmates are housed in 12 dormitories with 32 beds each. All dormitories have showers and lavatories. DDF was built in the 1940s, originally to serve as a camp for Japanese internees. Because the original construction was of good quality, the buildings have weathered the years well and appear in good repair.

Local Inspections which include fire, medical, environmental health and nutritional health were completed in a timely manner.

Although the suggested complement of sworn staff is 65, the deputies do not feel short-handed and manage well at 51. In addition to sworn staff, there are two nurses, a teacher and teacher aide, a food supervisor, a maintenance supervisor and other support personnel.

The DDF program calendar is full and varied. There is instruction in general education leading to a high school diploma or certificate. Comparative literature classes are also offered. In addition, inmates may take advantage of classes such as parenting, substance abuse education and Bible study in English and Spanish. Inmates staff the kitchen and learn food handling skills. They also are very involved in construction, maintenance, landscaping and grounds keeping.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: There is limited camera surveillance.

Finding: Improved electronic monitoring would release staff for other duties.

Fact: Although there are outdoor facilities for visitors, none exists indoors.

Finding: Occasional inclement weather makes outdoor visiting impossible.

Fact: Teachers and aides report they need additional books.

Finding: Books are well-used and often wear out quickly.

Fact: Descanso had to be evacuated because of fire danger.

Finding: Staff was not given adequate notice of the evacuation by the fire department.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

- 07-82:** Determine, purchase and install additional camera surveillance equipment.
- 07-83:** Establish a room where indoor visiting can take place.
- 07-84:** Approach school districts, libraries and publishers to obtain books at low or no charge.
- 07-85:** Improve communication between the Fire Department and Descanso staff to point out the need for additional notification in the event future evacuations are needed.

EAST MESA DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the East Mesa Detention Facility on September 6, 2006.

East Mesa Detention Facility is located on 35 acres in the Otay Mesa area of San Diego County. It is adjacent to the George Bailey Detention Facility.

This facility was built as a low to medium security detention center in 1991. It is rated by the Corrections Standards Authority of the California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CSA) for 360 inmates with an actual capacity of 512. Jail population on the day of our visit was 497. The average stay of inmates is 30-60 days.

There is authorized sworn staff of 75. Currently employed are 56 deputies, five sergeants and one facility commander. The facility is at 83% staffing capacity.

Because of its minimum-medium security status, inmates are able to receive training in food service, grounds maintenance, construction and print shop. These programs provide beneficial instruction in trades that will aid inmates' re-introduction into mainstream society.

There are also many educational opportunities for inmates with a desire to improve. Among them are English as a second language (ESL), high school diploma or certificate classes and a first rate computer lab/library. East Mesa Detention Facility also offers programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, anger management and parenting.

The facility has one correctional counselor and an assistant to process inmates and perform needs assessments. The assessment is done for all inmates to facilitate programs that offer maximum benefit during their period of incarceration.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Classes are offered in mental health, certain trades and education to inmates who desire them.

Finding: The educational program at East Mesa Detention is excellent and could be expanded.

Fact: East Mesa Detention Facility is understaffed.

Finding: Understaffing has an impact on the ratio of deputy to inmates, which make deputies' jobs more difficult.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

07-86: Continue to add more classes with the goal of preparing inmates to reintegrate into society when their terms of incarceration are completed.

GEORGE F. BAILEY DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the George F. Bailey Detention Facility (GFBDF) on September 6, 2006.

This maximum security facility was completed in 1991, opened for limited operation in 1993 and was fully operational in 1994 (GBFDF brochure, 2004). Only 75% of the 201 authorized staff (150 deputies) is currently employed at this facility.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) has rated the capacity of this facility for 1380 inmates. Actual facility capacity is 1688, which is an increase over rated capacity of 308 inmates. At the time of the Grand Jury visit, the facility housed 1621 inmates, with an average daily population of 1591.

Over the past twelve months there were four suicide attempts (one successful), three deaths from other causes and one escape.

GBFDF offers many services to inmates. These include medical/psychiatric facilities; access to clergy; educational opportunities and reasonable visitation opportunities.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: The George F. Bailey Detention Facility is a maximum security facility and the largest in the San Diego County System.

Fact: Sworn staffing is at 75% of authorized capacity.

Finding: Increased sworn staffing is an immediate need at this facility.

LAS COLINAS WOMEN'S DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Las Colinas Women's Detention Facility in Santee was visited by the Grand Jury on September 20, 2006. Las Colinas was built in the 1960s. The facility became an all women's detention center in 1979. Las Colinas is the only women's facility in the county; however there are 80 female beds at the Vista Detention Facility.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) rated capacity for this facility is 400; the court ordered capacity is 500, the average is 675. The rated capacity has been exceeded since the last inspection of the Grand Jury. On the date of the Grand Jury visit there were 715 inmates. The population break-down is 43% White, 28% Hispanic, 25% Black, and 4% other.

There were 254 assaults reported. Of the twelve attempted suicides, one inmate hanged herself. Although there were four or five escape attempts, none was successful. Las

Colinas staff informed the Grand Jury that there were 15,396 bookings in 2005.

Las Colinas is authorized for 129 sworn officers, but only 85 sworn officers are currently employed. Total staff, including professional staff, is 250.

The educational programs continue to be a plus for this facility. There are six full-time teachers from Grossmont Adult Education, and 65 to 70% of inmates are in one or more classes. There is a waiting list for every class. High school and basic literacy classes are available, as are anger management programs. Vocational training is offered in graphic arts, food handling, landscaping, sewing and computer and graphic software. The inmates make their own uniforms as well as those worn at various detention facilities in San Diego County.

Meals are prepared at the East Mesa Food Production facility and are delivered to Las Colinas. Inmates work in the Las Colinas kitchen after training and medical clearances. Meals are served in two central dining halls. The length of time allowed for eating meals is 15 minutes.

Religious services are available. There are approximately 40 religious volunteers for the sheriff's detention facilities.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Las Colinas is an aging and understaffed facility. Housing conditions are sub-standard requiring constant repair or replacement.

Fact: Inmates are severely lethargic and apathetic. 40% of the prisoners are on anti-depressant medication.

Fact: Recreation equipment is available but underused.

SAN DIEGO CENTRAL JAIL

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury inspected the San Diego Central Jail facility (SDCJ) on August 23, 2006. The Staff provided the Jury with a video presentation which offered a complete overview of the Central Jail operation. The Central Jail opened in May, 1998, and is a state of the art facility. The building has 11 stories in which the administrative facilities are accessed by separate elevators; the inmates are secured in the inner core of the facility.

SDCJ serves as the primary booking facility for male prisoners in San Diego County. The rated capacity for SDCJ is 944 (990 including medical beds), however the average daily population is in the mid-800s. On August 23 (during Grand Jury Inspection) the population count was 802, which was 85% of the rated capacity.

SDCJ is budgeted for 220 sworn officers, but only 146 officers (66% staffed) are available for a typical workday. The facility staff emphasized that the reason for the shortfall in officers was due to recruitment. It was stated that some of the problems in recruitment were the result of the call up of military reserves for duty in Iraq as well as the salary scale.

Medical Staff is authorized 63, actual working staff is 49. Food staff is currently 14. SDCJ provides a wide range of medical and psychiatric services, including three dialysis machines, infectious disease control, X-ray and basic dental care. SDCJ's Psychiatric Security Unit (PSU) is the largest acute psychiatric treatment facility in the County. The Grand Jury toured the psychiatric ward. The staff representative claimed that SDCJ has more psychiatric beds than the County of San Diego health facilities.

The video presentation limited the time for a complete tour of the facility; therefore the Grand Jury scheduled a second visit. The original visit did not include an inspection of the dormitory, the recreation unit or an inmate interview. A second visit took place on September 29, 2006. The jury members were provided details and general discussion about the areas not previously visited. Facility staff escorted the members to areas that weren't previously observed and arranged for an inmate interview. Results of the second visit to the recreation area, the dormitory and an inmate interview satisfied the members that all requirements were in accordance with the policies and procedures as set forth by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Corrections Standards Authority (CSA).

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Local inspections, provided by the CSA and the County Health Department, which include fire, medical, environmental health and nutritional health were completed by September 10, 2006.

Finding: All areas were in compliance. Medical and mental facilities are outstanding. Cleaning fluids and chemicals were safely stored. Weapons lockers were located outside the perimeter of the modules (cells) and were well secured. The kitchen area was clean and responsibly run. Recreation areas were Spartan but well maintained. Contact sports are not permitted.

Fact: Orientation of inmates appeared to be effective with regard to SDCJ rules and procedures. Grievance procedures for inmates are in effect and well documented. An interview with an inmate corroborated this fact.

Fact: Understaffing continues to be a problem. Recruitment is difficult which seems to be universal within the Sheriff's Department.

Fact: The exterior and interior conditions of SDCJ were in very good condition. The jail facility was clean and well maintained.

Fact: Education providing for high school graduation is available for those inmates who request it. Although the length of stay for most inmates is minimal, their education records travel with them when transferring to different facilities.

SOUTH BAY DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury inspected the South Bay Detention Facility on October 11, 2006. The South Bay Detention Facility (SBDF) is located in the South County Regional Center and opened for service in 1982. The SBDF is a non-booking facility. The inmates housed at this facility are those who are scheduled for Court appearances. As part of an agreement with the City of Chula Vista, SBDF does not house any extremely high risk inmates and is one of the less populated detention facilities.

An official of the SBDF and staff provided the Jury with background information about the facility and allowed time for a very informative question and answer period. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) rated capacity for this facility is 386 however the Court rated capacity is 431. The average daily population is 385. On October 11, 2006, the population count was 414. There is 53 sworn staff; the facility is usually managed by 12 deputies and a watch commander.

SBDF claims to be one of the safest facilities for both inmates and staff and the consensus of the Jury was that morale was high and that there was a definite *esprit de corps* among the staff. Progressive facility management has corrected a history of inmate tension due to over-population.

There are neither medical beds nor a Psychological Security Unit (PSU) on site; however a full complement of professionally trained medical staff treats inmates for minor afflictions and illnesses. Inmates that require medical treatment for major afflictions or illnesses are sent to either George Bailey Detention Center or University of California San Diego (UCSD) hospital.

Previously reported plumbing problems will be corrected in December, 2006. All planning and funding has been approved.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Classification, discipline, visiting and nutritional policies and procedures are consistent with other Sheriff's Department facilities and are executed with efficiency and dispatch.

Fact: Local Inspections, by Corrections Standards Authority (CSA), include fire safety, medical, environmental health and nutritional health were completed on January 12, 2006. Other facility inspections were completed in November, 2005.

Finding: All areas were in compliance. Cleaning fluids and chemicals were safely stored. Weapons lockers were located outside the perimeter of the modules (cells) and were well secured. The kitchen area was clean and responsibly run.

Finding: Understaffing continues to be a concern. Recruitment is difficult which seems to be a universal problem within the Sheriff's Department.

Fact: The exterior and interior conditions of the facility were in very good condition. The jail facility was clean and well maintained.

Fact: Orientation of Inmates: Appeared to be effective with regard to facility rules and procedures. Grievance procedures for inmates are in effect and well documented.

Fact: Quality of Life: Educational courses provided by Grossmont Adult Education for high school is available for those inmates who request it. Although the length of stay for most inmates is minimal, their educational records travel with them when transferring to a different facility. Additional training for anger management and woodworking is also provided. Recreation areas were Spartan, although well maintained. Contact sports are not permitted. Limited physical fitness equipment is available.

Fact: The facility is lacking in effective video surveillance/recording units. The reduced staff cannot adequately investigate physical altercations that may occur in areas not covered by cameras.

Finding: Additional cameras would provide information to the staff so intelligent correctional measures could be made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

- 07-87:** Conduct a site survey and cost estimate to determine necessary video surveillance equipment to be purchased and installed to address the problem of inadequate monitoring of the daily activities of inmates.

VISTA DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury inspected the Vista Detention Facility (VDF) October 25, 2006. A VDF official participated with jurors in a “round table” discussion which provided a complete description of the VDF operation. The VDF is classified as a Type II Facility by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation’s Corrections Standards Authority (CSA). VDF serves as the primary booking facility for male and female prisoners in North San Diego County. The facility is one building in the massive North County Regional Center complex which includes the North County Superior Courts and the Vista Sheriff’s Station. The court rated capacity for VDF is 886. The average daily population is 849. On October 25, 2006, (during GJ inspection) the population count was 832 (661 males and 171 females). The facility is budgeted for 120 sworn staff and is currently operating with 114. The professional staff is comprised of 40 detention processing, 37 medical, nine cooks and one janitor.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Local inspections are performed annually and include fire safety, medical, environmental health and nutritional health. The last inspections were completed in November 2005. VDF is scheduled for its CSA biennial inspection in November 2007.

Finding: All areas were in compliance. Medical and mental health services are available every day. A medical doctor is on site for four hours in the morning, and three registered nurses are in the medical unit 24 hours a day.

Finding: Cleaning fluids and chemicals were stored in compliance with safety standards. Weapons lockers were available for law enforcement officer utilization and safely secured outside the perimeter of the inmate area. The kitchen area was clean and responsibly operated and managed.

Finding: Recommendation 06-062 by the 2005-2006 Grand Jury to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff was to consider means of increasing the number of sworn officers. The budget has been increased from 113 sworn officers to 120. Recruitment of detention officers appears to be a universal problem within the Sheriff’s Department.

Fact: The exterior and interior conditions of the facility were in very good condition. The jail facility was clean and well maintained.

Fact: There appeared to be effective communication with regard to facility rules and procedures. Grievance procedures for inmates are in effect and are well documented. An interview with an inmate corroborated this fact.

Fact: Education providing for a high school graduation is available for inmates who request it. Although the length of stay for most inmates is minimal, their educational records travel with them when transferring to a different facility. Additional training classes consisted of sewing, parenting and job assistance.

Fact: There are six recreation areas available for male and female inmates. As with other detention facilities, contact sports have been eliminated.

Finding: The recreation areas were well lit and although indoors, did provide adequate ventilation.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

CAMP BARRETT JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited Camp Barrett in Alpine on November 15, 2006. Camp Barrett is one of five juvenile detention facilities operated by the Juvenile Institutional Services branch of the San Diego County Department of Probation.

Camp Barrett is a minimum security “open environment” facility which provides the Juvenile Court a sentencing option of at least 90 to 547 days for convicted juvenile males (wards) between 16 and 20. The average period of detention is 250 days. The physical setting is similar to a secure campground. Huge oak trees obscure many of the buildings. Manicured lawns and well kept surroundings provide a relaxed environment. This facility provides lengthy detention within San Diego County which allows for more educational opportunities than similar state facilities. Weekly visitations are more frequent and averages 50 to 60 of the current 150 detained population. Family visits are permitted on Sundays and on four identified special holidays. Visits are conducted in a large outdoor visiting area, or indoors during inclement weather. Visits are closely monitored by staff officers and are restricted to parents, step-parents, grandparents, or

legal guardians. Upon successful completion of a screening process, the Juvenile Court may select a juvenile male from a waiting list of prospective wards detained at the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility to be transferred to Camp Barrett. Camp Barrett wards have a structured freedom similar to a military boot camp with responsibility and discipline of paramount emphasis.

Camp Barrett High School is located within the facility. Eight full time teachers conduct classes Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. Participation in this educational program is mandatory. An Individualized Educational Program (IEP) is developed for each ward which could culminate with the awarding of a high school diploma. If a juvenile has graduated from high school prior to facility placement, that ward will be assigned to permanent work status for the duration of incarceration. Training programs such as Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse, Aggression Replacement, Conflict Management, Alcohol and Narcotics Anonymous, and several Regional Occupational Program (ROP) classes are also available.

Camp Barrett strictly prohibits any gang identities or affiliations. Such activities as gang style writing (a specific kind of ornamental writing that identifies affiliation), tagging, monikers, hand signs, or other identifying associations are prohibited. A strictly enforced dress code prohibits sagging pants or bloused shirts to maintain uniform decorum.

The day of the Grand Jury visit, the ward population was 150 juvenile males. The rated capacity established by the State of California, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) for Camp Barrett was 125 wards. With the recent reopening of additional dormitory space, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorized the rated capacity be increased to 156 wards. CSA approval has been received.

The facility staffing was identified as “Bare Bones.” The safe operation and management of this facility is extremely dependent on overtime funding. Of the 56 authorized sworn staff positions, 53 are currently filled. A registered nurse is on duty on a daily basis. A physician visits Camp Barrett weekly and a psychologist is on site 4 days a week. Video conferencing is employed for psychiatric review of medicinal adjustments.

The sworn and professional staffs were found to be very conscientious in the performance of their duties. It was apparent that the health, welfare, education and rehabilitation of the wards were of the utmost concern. Because Camp Barrett is so far from other facilities, and somewhat removed from supervision, there is a heightened awareness of the need for internal discipline and compliance with rules and regulations by both staff and inmates.

Clearly, Camp Barrett is a coveted assignment whether it is from the perspective of a juvenile detainee or a staff employee of the San Diego County Probation Department.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: Camp Barrett is a remotely located rural minimum security juvenile male detention facility that requires dependable transportation from the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.

Finding: Available ward transportation is by a 1980s era bus which has difficulty negotiating the hills and the distance to be traveled through rural countryside. Maintenance is costly and parts difficult to obtain.

Fact: Convicted juvenile males, aged 16 to 20 years, are placed in Camp Barrett for the duration of their sentence upon successful completion of a screening process and review by the Juvenile Court. Such placement is revocable if the ward violates the standards of behavior enforced by Camp Barrett staff officers.

Fact: Camp Barrett is the home of Camp Barrett High School, a modern accredited high school offering diploma curriculum. Eight full time teachers of extended tenure and experience are employed.

Finding: Camp Barrett is a well managed facility. Although dependent on overtime funding for adequate operational staffing, the health, welfare, education, and rehabilitation of the wards are being achieved. This Grand Jury was advised that Camp Barrett is currently experiencing its best leadership ever.

Finding: Although an exercise work-out area is well supplied, the wards' recreational opportunities are less than adequate due to a substandard condition of the athletic field.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

07-88: Allocate funding to recondition the athletic field.

07-89: Replace the approximately 25-year-old bus currently in use at Camp Barrett.

EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The Grand Jury visited East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF), on September 27, 2006. EMJDF is one of five juvenile detention facilities operated by the Juvenile Institutional Services Branch of the San Diego County Department of Probation.

EMJDF is a modern maximum security facility on about 26 acres. It opened on June 24, 2004, at an approximate cost of \$57 million. This facility includes ten housing modules, each accommodating 40 beds. Each housing module is self-contained where inmates are housed in separate rooms of one or two inmates to each room supplied with a toilet, sink, and drinking fountain. The modules include a central timed showering area, a central mezzanine that is used for meals, meetings, and indoor recreation, including television, which can be viewed on a scheduled basis. Each module includes two 20 student classrooms, where educational curriculum is presented and attendance is mandatory five days a week. An outdoor recreation area for sporting activities is adjacent to each module, where the inmates can participate in games of basketball, dodge ball, or jog/exercise. These recreation areas are dedicated to each module and divided by a formidable chain link fence to discourage interaction between modules. A closed-circuit television monitoring system provides surveillance of all areas of the facility.

EMJDF operates as a detention facility for male juveniles awaiting court hearings or placement. Depending on the length of court proceedings, detention may last a month or more.

This facility is also utilized as a juvenile booking facility for South San Diego County arrests, and can temporarily accommodate juvenile female bookings prior to their transportation to the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF) where juvenile females are housed exclusively. The average juvenile male population at EMJDF is 215 between 12-and 19-years-old. Occasionally a female can be held overnight awaiting transportation to KMJDF. Of the 215 average ward population, 90% are gang affiliated; however, such affiliations are immediately discouraged by staff officers through the employment of a strict anti-gang policy. Current inmate demographics are: 52% Hispanic, 25%-30% black and 20%-25% white. EMJDF is currently experiencing a 55% recidivism rate.

The comprehensive Educational Services Program is administered and provided by the San Diego County Office of Education. EMJDF has eleven full-time teachers, nine part-time teachers, with a teaching/assistant assigned to each classroom. Mandatory classroom education is conducted four hours per day, Monday through Friday. High school diplomas are awarded upon completion of graduation requirements that include the presentation of a Senior Project to a Review Board. Daily rehabilitative programs are also offered to any “at-risk” ward. Such programs are: *Gang Intervention & Personal*

Character Development, Substance Abuse Counseling, Anger Management Counseling, Independent Living Skills, Literacy and Personal Health Education.

EMJDF employs a comprehensive full-time staff of health care professionals. There is a Registered Nurse on site 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Additionally, two licensed vocational nurses are on site 12 hours per day. Juveniles requesting sick-call are seen by a nurse within eight hours of the request. A pediatrician, a dentist, and an X-ray technician are available to the inmates two days a week. Emergency or life-threatening cases are immediately transported to a local hospital by ambulance.

Although the facility management has identified the sworn staffing levels as minimal, 100 officers are available for duty assignments. Overtime funding alleviates most staff scheduling problems. Additionally, the availability and utilization of the video surveillance system has aided with the redeployment of staff.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: EMJDF is a maximum security, climate controlled indoor detention facility for juvenile males 12-to19-years-old waiting court processing or placement.

Fact: EMJDF is a juvenile booking facility for the south section of San Diego County.

Fact: EMJDF is a new modern state of the art school-campus-appearing facility.

Finding: EMJDF is very well maintained. This facility is managed and operated by a staff of sworn officers and professional personnel dedicated to the safety, health, welfare, education and rehabilitation of young male and female offenders.

GIRLS REHABILITATION FACILITY

DISCUSSION

On September 13, 2006, the Grand Jury visited the Girls Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) following our visit to Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility. The GRF program is intensive and highly structured serving up to 50 Juvenile Court female detainees between the ages of 13-to17 ½-years-old. Forty two detainees were in the program at the time of our visit. Sworn officer staffing is mostly female and as in all other detention facilities, is below required levels.

Following the booking process, the female juvenile detainees are medically and mentally screened into the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility similar to the male detainees. After a thorough evaluation, the detainees are released on bail to parental custody, transferred to the mental health facility at Polinsky Children's Center or held in the "Breaking Cycles" assessment unit within Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility. During the first 21 days, the detainees are interviewed, court and psychological

reports are reviewed and educational history assessed. If standards are met, the detainee will enter the GRF program or be placed on a waiting list.

Once a detainee enters the GRF program, she is provided an individualized goal plan completed by the GRF treatment team. The team includes the individual, a GRF supervisor and mental health staff. The team meets periodically to determine each girl's minimum program requirements. Examples of programs available among others are: education, family counseling, alcohol/drug counseling, gang intervention and religious services. There are five phases each individual must pass to complete the program to be eligible for release. The phases are described as Boarding, Departure, Journey, Arrival and Destination.

The facilities at GRF are quite different from the Kearny Mesa boy's facility. The rooms, halls and meeting/education rooms are painted and decorated in an attractive way. Each individual girl's room is small but pleasant having two to four wooden (not metal) bunks. The room appearance improves as the girls advance successfully through each phase. Showers/ bathroom facilities are small, but adequate. Meals and education classes are held in the same large room. Meal preparation and clean up are done by the girls. Recreation and competitive team sports such as volleyball, soccer, baseball and basketball are encouraged and are scheduled every day for at least an hour.

From 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. every minute is scheduled with meals, basic education, programs, recreation and counseling. This daily schedule is tight leaving little time to ponder their previous life or think negative thoughts. When it is lights out at 9 p.m. most girls are sound asleep within minutes. Visitation is for one hour on Thursdays between 7 and 8 p.m. and Sundays between 10 and 11 a.m. for parents or legal guardians only. Special visits may include siblings and grandparents. Four and eight hour excursions to Fashion Valley or Mission Valley are allowed for those have who proven they can be trusted. Successful completion of the GRF program takes an average of six months.

JUVENILE RANCH FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the Juvenile Ranch Facility on November 1, 2006. The tour began with a history lesson. Between 1940 and 1943 Rancho Del Campo was a cavalry base for the Buffalo soldiers. By 1943 the Army concluded horses should be replaced by tanks. From 1943 through 1946 the base operated as a hospital. The old base is now being considered as a national historic site. The current juvenile facility was opened in mid 1960 with two dormitories and was enlarged with Rayo I and Rayo II in 1978 and 1980. As we toured the dorms, it was obvious which one was built in 1940. The Campo II dorm showed its age, but is well maintained. Campo I is no longer utilized as a dormitory. The Rayo I dorm was clean and orderly. The Jury didn't visit Rayo II as it is the same as Rayo I. The old officers club is now a library which impressed us all with its

comfortable surroundings. The jury was also impressed with the new kitchen/mess hall facility. As we enjoyed our lunch, we noticed how organized the facility was.

Current ward population is 153 divided thusly: 48 in Campo II dorm and 105 in Rayo I and Rayo II dorms. Campo II dorm houses boys with behavior problems. Rayo I and Rayo II teachers administer a therapeutic program for those with substance abuse problems.

Wards attend full time traditional high school with emphasis on math, science, English and history. Classes are held in 11 separate classrooms by nine classroom teachers, seven aides and one special education teacher, all administered by a head teacher. Classes are supported by a computer lab and library. Five course credits are awarded to students completing 80 hours of classroom work. A high school diploma is awarded to those successfully completing all program requirements. General Education Development (GED) training and testing is also available for those who are eligible. In addition to traditional high school, special dorm programs are mandated.

The Campo II dorm programs, for those with behavior problems, consist of *Character Counts*, *Pillars of Character*, *Aggression Replacement Training (ART)* and *Literacy*.

The *Pillars of Character* program is concerned with core values of character which are trustworthiness, caring, fairness, citizenship, responsibility and respect. *ART* is presented in a discussion format where wards are encouraged to be considerate in the way they view others and themselves. The *Literacy* program requires wards to read a book or write a letter to a relative or friend. Dorm staff will also assign structured written projects. Camp psychologists are available to Campo II wards for counseling.

The Rayo I and Rayo II dorms therapeutic program includes 12 weeks of drug counseling which includes 12 counseling sessions with *The McAllister Institute*, *Anger Management*, 84 days of satisfactory behavior grades and *Phoenix House Therapeutic Community* programming. Wards with greater needs also receive individual substance abuse counseling. Morning and evening discussions for each dorm are required to encourage wards to deal with daily problems with a positive attitude. The Phoenix House therapeutic program is administered by two full time Juvenile Ranch Facility employees. The Phoenix House program consists of an introduction to Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous, parent meetings, and encounter groups which encourages a positive slant to the Phoenix House experience, Re-Entry Classes and an after care agreement. Literacy classes are also available for Rayo I and Rayo II.

It is comforting to know that the focus of Campo II, Rayo I and Rayo II is rehabilitative rather than punitive. An important part of this rehabilitation is that physical and mental concerns of the wards are closely monitored with daily sick calls by a registered or licensed vocational nurse twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. A physician visits once a week and psychologists are available up to four days a week. Worker and

incentive programs are available for the wards providing rewards such as added recreation time, movies, and/or snacks. The Grand Jury was impressed with staff enthusiasm and dedication.

KEARNY MESA JUVENILE FACILITY

DISCUSSION

On September 13, 2006, the Grand Jury visited the Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF) which has a bed capacity of 596. The juvenile population, at the time of the visit, was between 311 and 314. The staff, which on the day of our visit included 130 sworn officers, can handle 359 detainees although officer overtime is needed to augment the existing staff.

Considering the age of the facility, it was quite clean and well maintained. The building's age was evident by observing ceiling tiles with water stains, worn floors tiles, chipped paint and an old building odor. The lawns, recreational areas and building exterior are in good condition. The kitchen and laundry facilities were clean and well organized, but appeared well used.

The detainees are classified by medical status, mental health, level of education, physical size, nature of offense and prior history. The detainees' classification determines the ward in which they will reside. As an example, a boy classified as violent will be placed in an isolation ward. The boys appeared clean, well behaved, and properly indoctrinated to facility rules. Their cells were clean, but sparse having one to four metal bunks. Cells remain locked at all times. The boys go to school and have their meals in the ward where they reside. The daily routine of education, meals and recreation is strictly adhered to. The high school curriculum is provided by Junipero Serra Senior High School. There is at least one hour of outside recreation each day. Violence is held to a minimum due to active supervision and numerous incentive programs.

There have been no suicides, although two attempts were made. One death occurred when a young man was detained with a serious undiagnosed illness. Following the medical evaluation at KMJDF, he was transferred to Rady Children's Hospital where he passed away. Rady Children's Hospital is contracted to provide medical, mental and dental care at the facility. Nurses are available in-house twenty four hours a day. Doctors are available during the day and are on call at night from Rady Children's Hospital. Following the booking process, each detainee receives a medical and mental evaluation upon entry to the facility.

Visitation at the facility with family members is on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 30 minutes. Visits from attorneys and clergy are more relaxed. All visits are supervised by staff, and communication is conducted by phone handset through a glass/plastic partition.

During the Grand Jury's visit to the facility, we enjoyed lunch with the detainees. Several juveniles were interviewed during lunch and were found to be polite and well behaved.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: For more than 50 years the KMJDF has detained juveniles.

Finding: The Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility is showing its age. Several areas need painting, floor tiles need replacing and stained ceiling tiles are proof of a leaking roof or leaking pipes. The building has an unmistakable odor caused by more than 50 years of occupancy by detainees.

RECOMMENDATION

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

07-90: Establish a plan and priority for building a new main juvenile detention facility.

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

07-91: Establish a priority and seek funding to build a new main juvenile detention facility.

EAST MESA FOOD AND LAUNDRY FACILITY

DISCUSSION

The San Diego County Grand Jury visited the East Mesa Food and Laundry Facility on November 3, 2006. The East Mesa Food Production Center and the Laundry Processing Facility are non-detention operations located adjacent to the East Mesa Detention Facility (EMDF). These service facilities are operated and managed by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, and utilize the assistance of inmate workers from EMDF.

FOOD SERVICE

The East Mesa Food Production Center, a 44,000 square foot building, was opened in 1991. Food service and packaging at this facility, which produces 25,000-35,000 prepared, prepackaged meals a day, is performed by 12 civilian staff as well as 50

inmates, each earning \$0.75 per day. The workweek is comprised of two eight-hour shifts Monday through Friday and one shift on Saturday.

This is a modern food production facility utilizing the most technologically advanced equipment to produce massive quantities of food while ensuring that food service, sanitation and safety combined is priority number one. It is a clean, well-maintained kitchen which includes separate areas for raw materials storage, preparation, packaging, cleanup and refrigeration for finished product.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: The East Mesa Food Production Center is operated by the San Diego Sheriff's food service division to provide complete meals to every Sheriff's Department and Probation Department detention facility in San Diego County except the remote Juvenile Ranch facility in Campo.

Finding: This operation is well run, cost effective (using inmate personnel) and up to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

07-92: Continue the operation on its present course and share with other jurisdictions the methods employed to make respective facilities as prestigious as East Mesa's food service operation.

07-93: Employ an additional full-time dietician to supplement the staff.

COMMENDATION

The Chief, Assistant Chief and Staff of the East Mesa Food Production Center are to be commended for the design and implementation of an exceptionally efficient food preparation and packaging facility. This center should be emulated by prisons and detention facilities throughout the United States and internationally.

LAUNDRY

The East Mesa Laundry Facility, adjacent to the food service operation, processes approximately 350,000 pounds of laundry monthly, servicing every detention facility in San Diego County except Las Colinas. This is accomplished through the efforts of

twelve county employees and twenty five inmates working two shifts per day, five days per week.

The laundry operation uses a number of 480 pound capacity washers and dryers to assist in the completion of this enormous daily task. There is a machine that irons and folds flat sheets as well.

This facility is well organized and efficiently run despite the fact that the environment can sometimes be hostile, especially in the summer months when the high temperatures combine with the heat of the machinery increase the difficulty of the working conditions.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

Fact: The East Mesa Laundry facility is run by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and services all county detention facilities except Las Colinas.

Finding: This laundry operation is well run and efficient despite the obstacles that can be present due to cramped working conditions and heat.

RECOMMENDATION

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Sheriff's Department:

07-94: Upgrade the ventilation in the laundry operation to improve working conditions.

REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The California Penal Code §933(c) requires any public agency which the Grand Jury has reviewed, and about which it has issued a final report, to comment to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the agency. Such comment shall be made *no later than 90 days* after the Grand Jury publishes its report (filed with the Clerk of the Court); except that in the case of a report containing findings and recommendations pertaining to a department or agency headed by an elected County official (e.g. District Attorney, Sheriff, etc.), such comment shall be made *within 60 days* to the Presiding Judge with an information copy sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Furthermore, California Penal Code §933.05(a), (b), (c), details, as follows, the manner in which such comment(s) are to be made:

- (a) As to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
 - (1) The respondent agrees with the finding

- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.
- (b) As to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:
- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
 - (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
 - (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
 - (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.
- (c) If a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the Board of Supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the Board of Supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

Comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in compliance with the Penal Code §933.05 are required from the:

<u>Responding Agency</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>	<u>Date</u>
San Diego County Sheriff's Department	07-80, 07-82 through 07-87 07-92, 07-93, 07-94	7/30/07
San Diego County Probation Department	07-81, 07-88, 07-89, 07-90	8/28/07
San Diego County Board of Supervisors	07-91	8/28/07