

Correctional Training Facility – Soledad



Summary:

Section 919 of the California Penal Code requires each Civil Grand Jury to inspect all public prisons within the County. The Civil Grand Jury visited the Correctional Training Facility (CTF), located in Soledad, in partial fulfillment of that requirement.

Background:

The CTF has a total design capacity of 3,312 inmates. It is a Level I and II General Population prison consisting of three separate facilities. Facility's A and B are Level II Sensitive Needs Yard

units consisting of four three-tier cell block housing units; two-man cells, and two dorms with a total bed capacity of 2800. Facility C is a Level II General Population unit consisting of nine three-tier cell block housing units; two man cells with a total bed capacity of 2496. Facility C also consist of an Administrative Segregation Unit, which is a three-tier cell block housing unit consisting of one-man cells with a total bed capacity of 240. Facility D is a Level I General Population unit consisting of six dorms with a total bed capacity of 1012. Each facility has an independent dining room, clothing distribution center, canteen, medical/dental/mental health services, education complex, library, chapel, and visiting rooms.¹

CTF is an institution of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The fiscal year 2013/2014 budget was \$142,498,449. The primary mission of the CTF is to provide custody, care, treatment, and rehabilitative programs for inmates committed to the CDCR by the courts. CTF provides long-term housing and services for minimum and medium custody inmates. As a Re-entry Hub CTF focuses on providing life skills for inmates through Academic and Career Technical Education (CTE) classes taught in our Valley Adult School (VAS), and by work assignments in Prison Industries Authority (PIA), leading to successful re-integration into communities throughout California.

Early in 1946, the Carlyle Thorpe property, four miles north of Soledad on Highway 101, was selected as a suitable location for the new prison that would become CTF. The 936.15 acres was purchased at a cost of \$239,465.67. In August 1946, the first dormitory was constructed to house inmates at South Facility and was assigned to San Quentin, for logistical and administrative support, as a farming camp. In August 1949, work was started on the construction of the Central Facility, housing the first inmates on December 3, 1951. In March 1956, work was started on the

¹ CTF web site

construction of the North Facility, housing the first inmates in September 1958.² As of March 7, 2017, additional housing for inmates was under construction.

Investigative Methodology:

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury (MCCJG), after touring the Correctional Training Facility, decided to conduct an inquiry into the operations of the facility³. The inquiry consisted of a site visit, interviews with staff and review of written documentation. After the conclusion of its inquiry the MCCGJ (although not required to do so) decided to report on the result.

Facts:

1. CTF offers numerous programs for inmates:

- Prison Industries Authority (PIA) Administration, Wood Products (Furniture Manufacturing, Upholstery), Textiles, Silk Screen (Prison Uniforms), Warehouse and Maintenance.
- Vocational Training consists of Electronics, Auto Mechanics, Building Maintenance, Carpentry, Computer Literacy, Electrical Works (Solar system installation and repair), Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Masonry, Plumbing, Small Engine Repair, Welding and Office Services.
- Academic; Adult Basic Education, Voluntary Education Program, High School/GED Literacy Program, Computer Assisted Education and College courses.
- Volunteer/Self Help Programs; Balance Reentry Activity Group, Life Cycle, Narcotics Anonymous/Alcoholics Anonymous, Avatar (Hindu Mythology), Toastmasters, Fathers Behind Bars, Alternative to Violence, Veterans Group, Higher Education Learning

² (Research by Jeff Soares)

³ California Grand Jury Association, "The California Grand Jury System", pg. 35

Program, Al-Anon, Criminals and Gangs Anonymous, Native American, Operation New Hope, Rosary Group/Catholic Choir, Inner Circle (Men's support Group), Incarcerated Vietnam Veterans of America and Juvenile Deterrent Group.

- Recycle
- Friends Outside
- Religious Services
- Veterans Services (Veterans Service Office)
- Substance Abuse Program
- Criminal Thinking
- Anger Management
- Family Relations
- Transitions - Pre-Release

Findings:

- F 1. The Grand Jury determined that the facility is a well-managed facility fulfilling its primary mission. The staff is both courteous and highly knowledgeable of their duties. The Grand Jury felt that nothing was out of bounds to their examination.
- F 2. There was no noticeable self-segregation or gang segregation of inmates in the yards as the Jury witnessed at SVSP.
- F 3. Although the MCCGJ realizes the difference in the level of inmates between the Salinas Valley State Prison and CTF, the difference in the atmosphere between each prison was palpable. The inmates and the Correctional Officers at the CTF maintained a level of respect between each other.

F 4. Even given the age of the facility it was well maintained. The grounds themselves were well landscaped giving one a sense of openness as opposed to confinement.

Recommendations:

None.

Invited Response:

The Monterey County Civil Grand Jury invites the Correction Training Facility's Warden to respond to all Findings.

