

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER
P.O. Box 790
Susanville, CA 96127



August 26, 2013

Honorable Paul L. Beeman
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Honorable Paul L. Beeman:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies and gentlemen of the Solano County Grand Jury for their visit to Delta Conservation Camp (Delta Camp). Staff at the California Correctional Center (CCC) and Delta Camp are continuously seeking suggestions and recommendations on ways to improve the working and living conditions for the conservation camp staff and inmates alike. We strive to foster an atmosphere of pride and a solid commitment to the service of our surrounding communities.

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.5, I am responding to the Solano County Grand Jury's findings and recommendations that are presented in the 2012/2013 Grand Jury Report entitled: Solano County Grand Jury 2012-13, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Conservation Camp (Delta Camp).

The Grand Jury has provided recommendations in four areas. The following provides a response to each recommendation and a status update to any actions taken by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to date.

Recommendation 1 suggests that CDCR staff the First Watch with a minimum of two correctional officers. Current staffing patterns for the 18 Northern California Conservation Camps allows for one staff member during First Watch. Delta Camp is consistent with this staffing pattern. Currently, Delta Camp has a full complement of staff including one Correctional Lieutenant, two Correctional Sergeants (one covering Second Watch and one covering Third Watch), and, on a rotating basis, eight Correctional Officers are assigned to provide one covering First Watch, two covering Second Watch and two covering Third Watch. Due to staffing limitations imposed by budgetary constraints, changes in staffing levels are not expected to be increased to allow for two officers to cover First Watch. However, a supervisory staff member is on call during First Watch hours and available to respond in case the need arises for additional personnel.

Recommendation 2 suggests that CDCR install security cameras at Delta Camp. In May 2013, Delta Camp purchased a 16-camera video surveillance system. Eight of the cameras are currently being installed in and around the inmate dormitory building to assist in monitoring inmate movement. These cameras will be monitored from the Correctional Officer's Duty Station. The remaining eight cameras will be utilized to expand the system at a later date.

Recommendation 3 suggests that CDCR install exit alarms in the inmate dormitory. This recommendation is sound in merit, but is currently impractical from a logistical standpoint. The installation of alarms on the exit doors would require wiring to, and modification of,

seven doors on three sides of the dormitory building. Placing alarms on the doors would not eliminate the inmates' ability to exit and enter the building without staff permission or knowledge. There are 16 windows on the lower floor of the dormitory building, which inmates could utilize for unauthorized access in and out of the dorms. CAL FIRE personnel indicate that placing security bars on these windows would be a fire code violation and placing alarms on the windows would not be practical. The dorms are currently cooled utilizing swamp coolers; during times of high outdoor temperatures the windows are opened in the evenings to allow for cooling the interior of the dormitory. Additionally, although inmate movement during First Watch is minimal, movement is still required for inmates who are assigned to prepare the morning meal during First Watch, which could be as early as 4:00 a.m. Inmate crews occasionally respond to emergency calls during First Watch and alarmed doors would impede their ability to respond without waking up the remaining inmate population. Delta Camp understands the merits of this recommendation, however it is believed the installation of the video surveillance system will accomplish the same goal.

Recommendation 4 suggests CDCR equip personnel with a portable radio capable of immediate communication with the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Delta Camp staff carry a wireless communication device, typically a cell phone, which the staff can utilize to call 911 for emergency dispatch. Delta Camp's telephone system has a wireless telephone that staff can carry to call 911 for emergency dispatch. Additionally, staff members have access to wireless radios that have direct contact with the CAL FIRE St. Helena Command Center. The St. Helena Command Center can initiate emergency dispatch with local law enforcement agencies at the request of Delta Camp staff. Delta Camp is currently in discussions with the Solano County Sheriff's Department to investigate whether or not their radio system is compatible with Delta Camp's radio system; if they are compatible and it is determined that direct contact would be the preferred approach, the Sheriff's Department would be required to give Delta Camp permission to access their radio frequencies.

I hope this update provides the information you require. If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact Associate Warden, Camps Division, P. Cochrane at (530) 257-2181, extension 4470.

Sincerely,



R. L. GOWER
Warden

cc: Solano County Grand Jury

M. Mullin, Chief Deputy Warden, CCC

P. Cochrane, Associate Warden, Camps Division, CCC

C. R. Hewitt, Captain, Camps Division, CCC

S. Turner, Lieutenant/Commander, Delta Conservation Camp