



Many states across the country, including Georgia, have passed, or are in the process of passing, criminal justice reform measures in an effort to restrain skyrocketing prison costs by providing sentencing courts with less expensive community based sentencing alternatives for low-level, non-violent drug and property offenders.

## EFFECT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

- Reduce number of offenders requiring incarceration
- Significantly increase the percentage of violent and dangerous offenders

## PRISON DESIGN & OPERATION

Due to a high percentage of violent and dangerous offenders, prison architectural firms have designed facilities that are intended to be safer to manage and cheaper to operate

### NEW PRISONS

- Rely on smaller, self-contained living units or “pods”
- Each pod will house 100 or less offenders
- Discontinue use of large-scale cell blocks and yards to eliminate the congregation of large number of offenders
- Offender activities (i.e. eating, sleeping, visitation, showering, programming, education, medical and barbering) to be conducted within each individual pod

### BENEFITS OF NEW DESIGN

- Effective management of violent prison population
- Significant decrease in risk of officer safety by reducing staff intensive large-scale offender movements
- Increase in flexibility in classification, offender housing and staffing in each pod
- Increase in security by limiting an offender’s ability to smuggle and distribute contraband as well as coordinate facility-wide disturbances

## TECHNOLOGY IN SECURITY & OPERATIONS

Technological advances play an increasingly important role in maintaining prison security and operations. Shrinking state budgets and a nationwide prison population of approximately 2.3 million fueled a trend to find more efficient, cost effective and sophisticated means of maintaining control of facilities.

## VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

- Increased role in facilities nationwide
- Assists with officer surveillance
- Cost effective
- High video quality
- Remotely controlled to zoom in and out as well as change point of view
- Newer cameras are more durable and increasingly resistant

## VIDEO CONFERENCING

- Delivers services to offenders within living units
- Used primarily for offender visitation
- Used in an increasing number of offender court appearances
- Helps enhance officer and public safety
- Reduces offender transportation costs

## TRACKING OFFENDERS

- Future prisons will rely on technology driven counting and tracking systems
- Some jurisdictions are using Radio-frequency identification (RFID) tracking systems to monitor offender populations
- Electronic bracelets worn by offenders track movements
- RFID is the wireless non-contact use of radio-frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer data, for the purposes of automatically identifying and tracking tags attached to objects
- RFID can be programmed to sound an alarm if an offender enters a prohibited area or if there is an unusual concentration of offenders in a certain area
- Other tracking technology exists, such as biometric entry point systems, but has yet to be deployed
- Prohibits an offender to enter an area through the scan of an offender’s iris or fingerprint

## RAPID ID

- Mobile 3G device that compares flat fingerprint of an individual to both state and federal criminal database
- Fingerprint will identify if a visitor is on probation, parole, a sex offender or has an active warrant
- Located at all state prisons



## THROUGH BODY SCAN

- Low dosage x-ray detector
- Can detect metallic and non-metallic contraband
- Currently used at 10 facilities

## VISITOR PHOTO ID

- Each facility uses a mobile device to take pictures of visitors who are approved contacts for offenders
- Photo will be uploaded to SCRIBE under an offender's visitor contact list.

## DETERRENTS

### CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPONS (CEW)

Use to reduce injury to staff and offenders, to aide as a deterrent from having to use hands-on force, reduce cost of injuries to staff and offenders and help operate safe and secure facilities.

- Commonly known as "tasers"
- Proven effective in disabling disruptive and combative offenders
- Used at 24 facilities as well as Interdiction Response Teams (IRT)

## HARDENING PROJECT

- Implemented in March 2013
- Concept: to harden all Level V (close security) prisons through the construction, renovation and retrofit operations in order to establish a tiered disciplinary segregation mechanism for problem inmates, as well as increase security throughout all close-security facilities.
- In 2015, began to harden large, medium-security facilities.
- Established Cell Phone Management System at three close-security facilities in 2015.

## MODIFICATIONS

- Installation of barrel bolts, tray/handcuff slots, stainless steel fixtures, wall mounted beds and updated lockers, light switches and shower doors
- Hardened light fixtures and heater vents
- Issuance of OC spray and stab resistant vests to all on-duty correctional officers

## TIER TARGETING SYSTEM

- Implemented in August 2013
- Divided into three tiers
- Tier I and II - locations at Hancock, Hays, Macon, Smith, Telfair, Valdosta, Ware and Georgia state prisons
- Tier III - Special Management Unit (SMU) located at Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Prison (GDCP)

- Purpose: to create a managed and measured stratification-oriented pathway for offenders to successfully transition from Administrative Segregation to lower-security levels and it provides greater management of long-term Administrative Segregation offenders

### *Tier I : Disciplinary, Protective Custody and Transient Housing*

- Involuntary and voluntary placement and management of offenders in short-term segregated housing
- Formal hearing held 96 hours after placement in Tier I
- 30 days or less in Tier I
- Assignment cannot exceed 30 days with the exception of involuntary/voluntary protective custody
- 30-day review conducted by Classification Committee
- Offender appeal of placement must be submitted within three business days of receipt of notice

### *Tier II : Administrative Segregation*

- Long-term Administrative Segregation stratification plan that manages the institutional conduct and programmatic need of offenders assigned to the program
- Offenders eligible for placement in Tier II are general population
- Offenders placed in Tier II are a threat to safety of facility, leaders in a major disturbance or riot, failure in Tier I, leaders in major disturbance resulting in assault or homicide of other offender(s), possession of firearm, escaped or escape attempt from a secure facility, assaultive histories and/or attempting to introduce or trafficking of cellular devices, drugs, tobacco or illegal contraband
- Phase 3+ is an additional phase for offenders who've completed the program, but are not deemed fit for general population at the time
- Formal hearing held within 96 hours of placement
- 90-days per phase/per review
- 30-day contacts with counselor
- Nine months minimum stay

### *Tier III - Special Management Program (SMU)*

- Established to protect staff, offenders and the public from offenders who commit or lead others to commit violent, disruptive, predatory or riotous actions, or who otherwise pose a serious threat to the security of the institution
- 90 day review by SMU Review Committee
- Recommendation formulated by committee to transition offender to next phase, retain in current phase, reassign to previous phase