



December 10, 2020

TO: [REDACTED]
Assistant Director for Detention Management

FROM: [REDACTED]
Lead Compliance Inspector
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: **Annual Detention Inspection of the El Valle Detention Facility**

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed a remote annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) of the El Valle Detention Facility in Raymondville, Texas during the period of December 8-10, 2020. This is a DIGSA facility.

The inspection was performed under the guidance of [REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector. Team members were:

| Subject Matter Field | Team Member |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Safety | [REDACTED] |
| Security | [REDACTED] |
| Medical Care | [REDACTED] ar |
| Detainee Rights | [REDACTED] |
| Medical Care | [REDACTED] |

Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection which is performed to determine overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2011 for Over 72 hour facilities. The facility received a previous rating of Meet Standards during the October 2019 inspection.

Inspection Summary

The El Valle Detention Facility is currently accredited by:

- The American Correctional Association (ACA) - Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCCHC) - Yes
- The Joint Commission (TJC) - No
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - No

Standards Compliance

The following information is a summary of the standards that were reviewed and overall compliance that was determined as a result of the 2019 and 2020 annual inspections:



| <i>2019 Annual Inspection</i> | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Meets Standard | 40 |
| Does Not Meet Standard | 0 |
| Repeat Finding | 0 |
| Not Applicable | 2 |

| <i>2019 Annual Inspection</i> | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Meets Standard | 40 |
| Does Not Meet Standard | 0 |
| Repeat Finding | 0 |
| Not Applicable | 3 |

The inspection team did not identify any deficiencies.

Facility Snapshot/Description

The El Valle Detention Facility is located in Raymondville, Texas, which is approximately 250 miles south of San Antonio, Texas and forty miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. The facility is owned and operated by Management and Training Corporation (MTC). The facility houses adult male and female ICE detainees of all custody levels. [REDACTED]

According to the accreditation manager, the physical plant includes a 55-acre compound consisting of two distinct sections inside the fence: the administrative services area and a section that includes the detainee housing units, kitchen/dining halls and the receiving and discharge area. The space between these areas is dedicated to two large outdoor recreation yards. The perimeter of the compound is encircled by a paved road and two parallel twelve-foot chain link fences supplemented with razor ribbon. The exterior fence line is equipped with an intrusion/shaker detection system. The perimeter fence is checked once each shift by a designated officer and is under constant surveillance camera vigil, which is monitored by control center officers. The 226-camera network affords watch into all housing units and main movement corridors. All movement is either escorted or permitted by sight line observations from post officers. All exterior building doors are alarmed and controlled by central control officers.

General population detainees are housed in eleven dormitory style housing units ranging in size from 112-120 beds. There is one special management unit (SMU) consisting of 48 two-bed cells; SMU detainees are single celled. All housing units are managed under direct supervision by officers.

Housing unit dayrooms are equipped with televisions, fixed dining/seating tables where detainees can play board games, cards, and engage in social interactions with one another. Electronic tablets are provided for detainees to order commissary, participate in video visits, play video games, listen to music and order books. Detainees have access to indoor and outdoor recreation.

Twenty-two detainees were interviewed remotely using the language line and bilingual inspectors, when necessary. Overall the detainees voiced no substantive complaints or concerns when questioned about their personal safety, treatment by staff, conditions of confinement, medical care, asylum requests, consulate/court access, ICE/ERO services, visiting privileges, law library access, or recreational opportunities. There were three complaints regarding food service. Three detainees stated that “food is served cold”. Temperature logs confirmed that food temperatures are within standard guidelines. The concern was shared with the accreditation manager. Due to COVID-19 protocols, satellite feeding is currently in operation. Two detainees complained about the fourteen-day quarantine. The classification staff were advised and planned to follow up with education regarding COVID-19 protocols. According to the majority of detainees, ICE officers visit the housing units at least weekly. None of the detainees have contacted the OIG, or



had the need to do so. The one detainee in SMU declined the opportunity to be interviewed. When asked about conditions of confinement, detainees stated that “the facility is very clean.”

Medical care and food services are provided by MTC employees. Detainee telephone services are contracted to Talton Communications, Inc. Detainees are not charged a medical co-payment.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

There were no areas of concern or significant observations from this remote inspection. The inspection was done remotely and inspectors were unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility. The inspection team relied upon photographs and/or videos to validate the observation of many standards.

Recommended Rating and Justification

The Lead Compliance Inspector recommends that the facility receive a rating of Meets Standards unless unobserved practices and conditions are contrary to what was reported to the inspection team. The facility complies with the ICE Performance Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011. No (0) standards were found Does Not Meet Standard and three (3) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty (40) standards were found to be Meet Standards.

LCI Assurance Statement

The findings of compliance and noncompliance are accurately and completely documented on the G-324A inspection form and are supported by documentation in the inspection file. An out brief was conducted remotely and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team, the following participated:

- ICE Officials – [REDACTED]
- Facility Staff – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| [REDACTED], Lead Compliance Inspector | December 10, 2020 |
| Printed Name of LCI | Date |

