July 28, 2022

TO:  
Acting Assistant Director Custody Management

FROM:  
Lead Compliance Inspector  
The Nakamoto Group, Inc.

SUBJECT: Annual Inspection of the Folkston Main ICE Processing Center

The Nakamoto Group, Inc. performed an annual inspection for compliance with the ICE Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS 2011) of the Folkston Main ICE Processing Center in Folkston, Georgia during the period of July 26-28, 2022. This is a DIGSA.

The annual inspection was performed under the guidance of Lead Compliance Inspector. Team members were:

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<th>Subject Matter Field</th>
<th>Team Member</th>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
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<td>Security</td>
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<td>Medical Care</td>
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Type of Inspection

This is a scheduled annual inspection to determine overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2011 for Over 72-hour facilities. The facility received a rating of Meets Standards during the July 2021 annual inspection.

Inspection Summary

The Folkston Main ICE Processing Center is currently accredited by:
- The American Correctional Association (ACA) - Yes
- The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) - Yes
- The Joint Commission (TJC) - No
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) - Yes

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 July 2021 and July 2022 PBNDS annual inspections:
The inspection team identified two (2) deficient components in the following two (2) standards:

Staff-Detainee Communication – 1
Visititation – 1

Facility Snapshot/Description

The Folkston Main ICE Processing Center is located on the north side of Folkston, Georgia. The facility is owned and operated by The Geo Group, Inc (detention contractor). The facility is a DIGSA with an annex located adjacent to the main facility. Both sections of the compound are encircled by independent fencing. During the first day of the inspection the facility housed adult male ICE detainees of all classification levels; they do not house female detainees.

The facility was built in The complex is comprised of separate story buildings; are housing units and a support services center. The secure outer perimeter of the compound is designed with two twelve-foot chain link fences with rows of razor ribbon affixed to the interior side of the exterior fence. Between the fences a movement detection system (shaker fence) and microwave sensors have been installed. The facility is encircled by a perimeter road that is irregularly patrolled by an unarmed officer in a vehicle 24 hours a day. Surveillance cameras offer visibility around the entire perimeter, into the housing units, the common areas, and interior movement corridors. All exterior building doors and interior movement corridor doors are controlled by central control staff, and are under constant camera surveillance through a 144 surveillance camera network that is monitored 24 hours a day.

The facility has individual housing units managed by direct supervision. Utility officers perform escort duties; all movement is escorted. The housing units are all-tier designs configured into dormitory or -bed cells arrangements. The housing units range in size from beds. of the housing units are for general population and unit serves as the special management unit (SMU); it contains -bed cells. There were no detainees in the SMU during the inspection. One housing unit currently serves as a COVID-19 quarantine/isolation unit where newly admitted detainees and existing detainees are housed until negative testing results/protocols are complete. During the inspection there were fourteen active COVID-19 cases in the facility. The health care unit is not an infirmary but does have five -bed cells for treatment and/or observation; one room has negative air pressure.

This facility relies on paper logbooks to document all staff and detainee functions. All officers and medical staff carry a radio. The facility offers on-site non-contact general visitation on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Visits are ninety minutes in duration but are currently limited to one adult. Minors cannot currently partake in on-site non-contact visits visit due to a local public health ‘code red’ mandate which the facility is required to enforce. The mandate limits on-site visits to one adult. Off-site general video-visits are available through the housing unit tablets. This format is fee-based and no accommodation is currently in place to extend that privilege to indigent detainees. On-site contact and non-contact legal visits are permitted; they are unrestricted in frequency and duration.
Each housing unit has a common dayroom equipped with three televisions, individual telephone stations, fixed table/chair units for detainees to eat their meals, play games and gather for conversation, and a bank of electronic tablets. Tablets provide detainees the ability to: retrieve the facility handbook and the ICE National Detainee handbook; view the law library LexisNexis collection; access consulate and ICE/ERO contact information; submit detainee requests to facility and ICE/ERO personnel; send/receive personal emails; place weekly commissary orders; engage in video-visits; submit sick call requests; check trust fund balances; access religious publications; and play games, read books, and listen to music. Tablets are available daily to all detainees during the daily dayroom waking hours of 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. All detainees have access to daily indoor and outdoor recreation. The facility is maintaining an above average level of sanitation.

The inspectors conducted 24 formal confidential detainee interviews during the inspection; ten required an interpreter. There were also sixteen informal interviews conducted by the inspectors during their tours of the housing units, recreation yards, intake hold cells, and the medical unit waiting area. Interviewed detainees’ length of stay in the facility ranged from two weeks to two months. All of the detainees stated they felt safe at the facility and had not been threatened or mistreated by staff or other detainees. There were no substantive concerns registered regarding the quality or quantity of food. Recreation time was satisfactory. Medical care provided was satisfactory. Overall, the detainees were very content with their living conditions, the cleanliness of the facility, access to telephones, and responsiveness from facility staff. About half of the formal interviewed detainees stated they rarely see an ICE/ERO representative in their housing unit; this was attested to by the absence of their signature in the housing units’ logbooks. Most of the detainees were not aware of OIG services; they were instructed, and in some instances, shown how to gain toll-free access using the housing unit telephones.

Two detainees had concerns/comments related to medical care. Their specific concerns were addressed with the health services administrator by the medical SME. Follow-up care was already scheduled for one detainee; the other detainee’s issue had already been completely addressed. No further action was necessary for either detainee.

ICE/ERO has an on-site presence at this facility five days per week. Deportation officers have posted their weekly tour schedule on the housing units’ bulletin board. A review of seven housing unit logbooks entries did not support their adherence to the posted schedule.

There were no deaths or escapes reported during this inspection period.

Medical, dental, mental health, and maintenance services are provided by The Geo Group, Inc. employees. Detainee telephone and tablet services are provided by Talton Communication. Kiosk services are provided by the Keefe Group. Detainees are not charged co-pays for medical, mental health, or dental care services.

Areas of Concern/Significant Observations

The facility is providing the following optimal levels of service as described in the standards: 2.12 – Special Management Units (SMU), detainees in the SMU in disciplinary segregation status receive a daily recreation period of one hour per day, and SMU administrative segregation status detainees receive two hours of daily recreation per day; 2.15 – Use of Force and Restraints, use of force audiovisual records are retained by the facility for at least one year after litigation or after any investigation has concluded or been resolved; 4.3 – Medical Care, the facility is accredited by ACA and NCCHC; 4.6 – Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, prevention/treatment and therapeutic aftercare for suicidal detainees or detainees at risk for self-harm are within NCCHC standards; 4.7 – Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death, medical care for terminally ill detainees are within NCCHC standards; 5.4 - Rec-
reation, special management unit (SMU) detainees in administrative segregation status are provided outdoor recreation daily for two hours. SMU detainees in disciplinary segregation status are provided outdoor recreation daily for one hour, and all detainees are provided a free set of audio ear buds during intake; 5.6 - Telephone Access, the housing units are providing telephones at a ratio of one phone for every ten detainees; and 6.3 - Law Libraries and Legal Materials, detainees are provided law library access hours for more than fifteen hours per week.

This was a hybrid inspection in which one inspector worked remotely. The remote inspector was unable to personally observe practices and procedures within the facility and 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 for Over 72-hour facilities. No (0) standards were rated as Does Not Meet Standard and two (2) standards were Not Applicable (N/A). All remaining forty-one (41) standards were found to Meet Standards.

**LCI Assurance Statement**

The findings of compliance and non-compliance 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 at the facility and in addition to the entire Nakamoto Group, Inc. Inspection Team (one SME via conference call) the following were present:

- ICE Officials —
- Facility Staff —

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<th>Lead Compliance Inspector</th>
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<td>Printed Name of LCI</td>
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