



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Office of Professional Responsibility
ICE Inspections
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Office of Detention Oversight
Unannounced Compliance Inspection
Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO New Orleans Field Office

Adams County Detention Center
Natchez, Mississippi

January 10-12, 2023

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
ADAMS COUNTY DETENTION CENTER
Natchez, Mississippi

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COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS

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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an unannounced compliance inspection of the Adams County Detention Center (ACDC) in Natchez, Mississippi, from January 10 to 12, 2023.¹ The facility opened in 2007 and is owned and operated by CoreCivic. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at ACDC in 2019 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

ERO has assigned deportation officers to the facility. An ACDC warden handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. Trinity Services provides food services, CoreCivic provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in August 2019 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in January 2020. In June 2022, ACDC was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of January 10, 2023)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of January 10, 2023)	[REDACTED]

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, ODO found two deficiencies in the following areas: Food Service (1) and Staff-Detainee Communication (1).

¹ This facility holds both male and female detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Facility List as of January 10, 2023.

³ *Ibid.*

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) greater than 10, and where detainees are housed for longer than 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE National Detention Standards. These inspections focus solely on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as “deficiencies.” ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

Beginning fiscal year (FY) 2022, ODO will conduct focused reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of one or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of one-to-nine detainees. Additionally, ODO will conduct unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s new contractually required ICE National Detention Standards, which include but are not limited to Admission and Release, Behavior Management (FRS only), Classification, and Funds and Personal Property, Emergency Plans, Environmental Health and Safety, Educational Policy (FRS only), Food Service, Hunger Strikes, Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Special Management Units, Suicide Prevention, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints.

Upon completion of each unannounced compliance inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating corrective action plans; and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in its decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDs 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{5,6,7}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	1
Transportation (by Land)	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Contraband	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Holds Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Key and Lock Control	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Special Management Units	0
Tool Control	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 3 - Order	
Disciplinary System	1
Sub-Total	1
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Medical Care	0
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death	0
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	0

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2022, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards on a 3-year basis. As a result, some standard components may not be present in all standards.

⁷ Special reviews and unannounced inspections are both focused reviews and ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards during each special review or unannounced inspection.

Part 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	2
Recreation	0
Visitation	0
Sub-Total	2
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Staff Training	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	4

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 21 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of mistreatment, physical abuse, or discrimination. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concern listed below.

Medical Care: One detainee stated he received no response after submitting a medical request for tooth pain on January 3, 2023.

- Action Taken: ODO interviewed the ACDC health services administrator (HSA), reviewed the detainee’s medical file, and confirmed medical staff assessed the detainee on the same day he submitted the January 3, 2023 medical request. On January 11, 2023, at the request of ODO, an ACDC dentist evaluated the detainee, confirmed gum inflammation, prescribed Tylenol as treatment, provided written oral hygiene orders, and instructed the detainee to submit a medical request if pain returned. On January 27, 2023, ODO followed-up with the HSA concerning the detainee’s medical condition and confirmed the facility released him from ICE Custody on January 19, 2023.

UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SAFETY

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (EHS)

ODO observed the ACDC barbershop operation and found the barbershop did not have a covered metal waste container (**Deficiency EHS-211**⁸).

ORDER

DISCIPLINARY SYSTEM (DS)

ODO reviewed the ACDC DS policies and procedures, interviewed facility staff, observed the facility's admission and release area and housing units A and B, and found ACDC did not post copies of the rules of conduct, rights, nor disciplinary sanctions, in Spanish, in the admission and release area nor in housing unit B (**Deficiency DS-20**⁹).

ACTIVITIES

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MAIL (COM)

ODO reviewed the ACDC site-specific handbook and found no notification to detainees that any identity documents, such as passports, birth certificates etc., in their possession may be used by ERO New Orleans as evidence against that detainee, or for other purposes authorized by law (**Deficiency COM-22**¹⁰).

ODO found ACDC did not post their complete COM notification of rules in the detainee housing areas. Specifically, ACDC COM postings covered only procedures for properly addressing postage envelopes (**Deficiency COM-27**¹¹).

⁸ "Each barbershop shall have all equipment and facilities necessary for maintaining sanitary procedures for hair care, including covered metal containers for waste, disinfectants, dispensable headrest covers, laundered towels and haircloths." See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Environmental Health and Safety, Section (V)(E)(2).

⁹ "Copies of the rules of conduct, rights and disciplinary sanctions shall be provided to all detainees and posted in English, Spanish, and other languages spoken by significant segments of the population with limited English proficiency." See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Disciplinary System, Section (V)(B).

¹⁰ "At a minimum, the notification shall specify: ...

8. That identity documents, such as passports, birth certificates, etc., in a detainee's possession are contraband and may be used by ICE/ERO as evidence against the detainee or for other purposes authorized by law"

See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Correspondence and Other Mail, Section (V)(C)(8).

¹¹ "The facility shall notify detainees of its rules on correspondence and other mail through the detainee handbook, or supplement, provided to each detainee upon admittance. At a minimum, the notification shall specify: ...

The rules notification shall be posted in each housing area." See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard,

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility’s compliance with 25 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 22 of those standards. ODO found four deficiencies in the remaining three standards. Since ACDC’s last full inspection in March 2022, the facility has shown steady improvement. ACDC went from 6 deficient standards and 18 deficiencies in March 2022 to 3 deficient standards and 4 deficiencies during this most recent inspection. However, the EHS deficiency is a different deficiency from what ODO identified in March 2022, and ACDC previously had no deficiencies in COM whereas now they have two. ODO did not inspect DS during the March 2022 inspection. The facility’s improved performance was a result of completing a uniform corrective action plan for ODO’s last inspection of ACDC in July 2022. ODO recommends ERO continue to work with the facility to resolve the remaining deficiencies in accordance with contractual obligations.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2022 Follow-up Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2023 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	18	25
Deficient Standards	2	3
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	4
Priority Component Deficiencies	N/A	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	1	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior

Correspondence and Other Mail, Section (V)(C).