

U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

# Office of Detention Oversight Follow-Up Compliance Inspection 2023-002-069

# Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO Harlingen Field Office

Coastal Bend Detention Facility Robstown, Texas

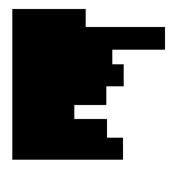
June 6-8, 2023

### FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the COASTAL BEND DETENTION FACILITY Robstown, Texas

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### FOLLOW-UP 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 a follow-up compliance inspection of the Coastal Bend Detention Facility (CBDF) in Robstown, Texas, from June 6 to 8, 2023.<sup>1</sup> This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO's last inspection of CBDF from December 6 to 8, 2022. The facility opened in 2008 and is owned and operated by The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at CBDF in 2017 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Harlingen (ERO Harlingen). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2008.

A CBDF facility administrator handles daily operations and manages support personnel. Single Source provides food services, GEO provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities. In July 2020, CBDF was audited for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DOJ PREA Certified.

| Capacity and Population Statistics           | Quantity |
|--|----------|
| ICE Bed Capacity <sup>2</sup>                |          |
| Average ICE Population <sup>3</sup>          |          |
| Adult Male Population (as of June 6, 2023)   |          |
| Adult Female Population (as of June 6, 2023) |          |

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found no deficiencies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This facility holds male detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high, and high security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Facility List as of June 5, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population of 10 or more detainees, 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. In FY 2021, to meet congressional requirements, ODO began conducting follow-up inspections at all ICE ERO detention facilities, which ODO inspected earlier in the FY.

While follow-up inspections are intended to focus on previously identified deficiencies, ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which include but are not limited to Medical Care, Suicide Prevention, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Emergency Plans, Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures and Restraints, Admission and Release, Classification, and Funds and Personal Property. ODO may decide to conduct a second full inspection of a facility in the same FY based on additional information obtained prior to ODO's arrival on-site. Factors ODO will consider when deciding to conduct a second full inspection will include the total number of deficiencies cited during the first inspection, the number of deficient standards found during the first inspection, the completion status of the first inspection's UCAP, and other information ODO obtains from internal and external sources ahead of the follow-up compliance inspection. Conditions found during the inspection may also lead ODO to assess new areas and identify new deficiencies or areas of concern should facility practices run contrary to ICE standards. Any areas found non-compliant during both inspections are annotated as "Repeat Deficiencies" in this report.

# FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2008 MAJOR CATEGORIES

| PBNDS 2008 Standards Inspected <sup>4,5</sup>   | Deficiencies |
|---|--------------|
| Part 1 - Safety                                 |              |
| Emergency Plans                                 | 1            |
| Environmental Health and Safety                 | 0            |
| Sub-Total                                       | 1            |
| Part 2 - Security                               |              |
| Admission and Release                           | 0            |
| Classification System                           | 0            |
| Facility Security and Control                   | 0            |
| Funds and Personal Property                     | 0            |
| Special Management Units                        | 0            |
| Staff-Detainee Communication                    | 0            |
| Use of Force and Restraints                     | 0            |
| Sub-Total                                       | 0            |
| Part 4 - Care                                   |              |
| Food Service                                    | 0            |
| Medical Care                                    | 0            |
| Personal Hygiene                                | 0            |
| Suicide Prevention and Intervention             | 0            |
| Terminal Illness, Advance Directives, and Death | 0            |
| Sub-Total                                       | 0            |
| Part 5 - Activities                             |              |
| Recreation                                      | 0            |
| Telephone Access                                | 0            |
| Sub-Total                                       | 0            |
| Part 6 - Justice                                |              |
| Grievance System                                | 0            |
| Sub-Total                                       | 0            |
| Total Deficiencies                              | 1            |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the Follow-up Compliance Inspection Findings section of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 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.

### **DETAINEE RELATIONS**

ODO interviewed five detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. The remaining detainee declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

## FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

### **SAFETY**

#### **EMERGENCY PLANS (EP)**

ODO reviewed the facility's contingency plans program and found the facility did not compile nor maintain the individual contingency-specific plan for a work/food strike (Deficiency EP-75<sup>6</sup>).

### CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 17 standards under PBNDS 2008 and found the facility in compliance with 16 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining one standard. Since CBDF's last full inspection in December 2022, the facility's overall compliance with the ICE PBNDS 2008 has continued to be high. CBDF went from no deficient standards and no deficiencies in December 2022 to one deficient standard and one deficiency during this most recent follow-up inspection, in the Emergency Plans standard. ODO recommends ERO Harlingen work with the facility to resolve the deficiency that remains outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations.

| Compliance Inspection Results Compared | FY 2023<br>Full Inspection<br>(PBNDS 2008) | FY 2023<br>Follow-up<br>Inspection<br>(PBNDS 2008) |
|--|--|--|
| Standards Reviewed                     | 23   | 17   |
| Deficient Standards                    | 0  | 1  |
| Overall Number of Deficiencies         | 0  | 1  |
| Priority Component Deficiencies        | 0  | 0  |
| Repeat Deficiencies                    | 0  | 0  |
| Areas Of Concern                       | 0  | 0  |
| Corrective Actions                     | 0  | 0  |
| Facility Rating                        | Superior                                   | N/A  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "The facility shall compile individual contingency-specific plans, as needed, in the following order: 2. Work/Food Strike" *See* ICE PBNDS 2008, Standard, Emergency Plans, Section (V)(E)(2).