



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
Unannounced Follow-Up Compliance
Inspection
2023-002-157**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO San Antonio Field Office**

**South Texas ICE Processing Center
Pearsall, Texas**

August 8-10, 2023

UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
SOUTH TEXAS ICE PROCESSING CENTER
Pearsall, Texas

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**UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
TEAM MEMBERS**



Team Lead	ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Inspections and Compliance Specialist	ODO
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	Creative Corrections
Contractor	Creative Corrections

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an unannounced follow-up compliance inspection of the South Texas ICE Processing Center (STIPC) in Pearsall, Texas, from August 8 to 10, 2023.¹ This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO’s last inspection of STIPC from February 7 to 9, 2023. The facility opened in 2005 and is owned and operated by The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at STIPC in 2005 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in San Antonio (ERO San Antonio). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

[REDACTED] A facility administrator handles daily operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. GEO provides food services, ICE Health Service Corps provides medical care, and Keefe Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in November 2020. In January 2022, STIPC 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 August 8, 2023)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of August 8, 2023)	[REDACTED]
Adult Transgender Population (as of August 8, 2023)	[REDACTED]

During its last full inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found three deficiencies in the following areas: Correspondence and Other Mail (1); Key and Lock Control (1); and Staff-Detainee Communication (1).

¹ This facility holds 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 July 31, 2023.

³ *Ibid.*

UNANNOUNCED 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.⁴

While unannounced follow-up inspections are intended to focus on previously identified deficiencies, ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, which may 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 uniform corrective action plan (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.

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}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Key and Lock Control	0
Searches of Detainees	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
Medical Care (Women)	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Terminal Illness, Advance Directives and Death	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	0

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Follow-Up 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.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 38 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

UNANNOUNCED FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO found no deficiencies during this unannounced follow-up inspection.

CONCLUSION

During this unannounced follow-up inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 18 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with all 18 of those standards. Since STIPC's last full inspection in February 2023, the facility has shown improvement. STIPC went from three deficient standards and three deficiencies in February 2023 to no deficient standards and no deficiencies during this most recent inspection. The facility's improved performance was likely due to completing a UCAP for ODO's last inspection in February 2023. ODO recommends ERO San Antonio continue to work with the facility to maintain a high level of compliance with ICE detention standards.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Full Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)	FY 2023 Follow-up Inspection (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	26	18
Deficient Standards	3	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	3	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	1	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	1	0
Facility Rating	Superior	N/A