



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
Compliance Inspection**

**Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO Miami Field Office**

**Broward Transitional Center
Pompano Beach, Florida**

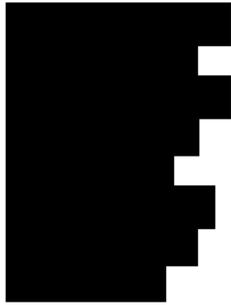
December 13-15, 2022

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
BROWARD TRANSITIONAL CENTER
Pompano Beach, Florida

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FACILITY OVERVIEW	4
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS	5
FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES.....	6
DETAINEE RELATIONS.....	7
COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS	8
SAFETY.....	8
TRANSPORTATION (BY LAND)	8
SECURITY	8
TOOL CONTROL	8
CONCLUSION	9

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Acting Team Lead	ODO
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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 compliance inspection of the Broward Transitional Center (BTC) in Pompano Beach, Florida, from December 13 to 15, 2022.¹ The facility opened in 1998 and is owned and operated by the GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at BTC in 2002 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director (FOD) in Miami (ERO Miami). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

ERO has assigned deportation officers, a supervisory detention and deportation officer, and a detention services manager to the facility. A BTC facility administrator oversees daily operations and manages █████ support personnel. GEO provides food services and medical care, and Keefe Group provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in December 2020 and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care in March 2021. In March 2021, BTC 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	█████
Average ICE Population ³	█████
Adult Male Population (as of December 13, 2022)	█████
Adult Female Population (as of December 13, 2022)	█████

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, ODO found six deficiencies in the following areas: Grievance System (2); Post Orders (1); Searches of Detainees (2); and Staff-Detainee Communication (1).

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

² Data Source: ERO Facility List as of December 13, 2022.

³ *Ibid.*

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population greater than 10, and where detainees are housed for over 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.

Upon completion of each 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 their 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**

PBNS 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected^{5,6}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Transportation (by Land)	1
Sub-Total	1
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Contraband	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Key and Lock Control	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Tool Control	1
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 3 - Order	
Disciplinary System	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
Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Recreation	0
Visitation	0
Sub-Total	0

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *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.

Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Staff Training	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	2

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 25 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. One detainee made an allegation of staff misconduct, which the facility and ERO Miami found to be unsubstantiated. Most detainees reported satisfaction with facility services except for the concerns listed below.

Food Service: One female detainee stated the facility served spoiled meat for the lunch meal on Saturday, December 10, 2022.

- Action Taken: ODO interviewed the food service administrator (FSA), reviewed the food temperature log and the meal menu for December 10, 2022, and confirmed BTC food service prepared frozen pre-cooked hamburger patties, heated them to the required 165 Fahrenheit degrees, and served them for lunch. ODO found no other information to support the detainee's complaint.

Medical Care: Two male detainees stated their dissatisfaction with the level of medical care at BTC in treating their respective health issues.

- Action Taken: ODO reviewed the medical files of the detainees, interviewed the health services administrator (HSA), and confirmed both detainees received prompt treatment for their symptoms. On November 21, 2022, medical staff evaluated one detainee for abdominal pain and referred him to a facility physician. The physician sent the detainee to a local hospital for a tomography scan of the abdomen, and hospital staff found no abnormalities. ODO was unable to confirm if these results were communicated to the detainee; however, during a sick call appointment on December 10, 2022, the detainee did not report any further complaints of abdominal pain to facility medical staff. On January 6, 2023, ODO followed-up with the HSA and confirmed BTC released the detainee from custody on December 28, 2022.

On October 26, 2022, BTC medical staff evaluated the second detainee for knee pain, found minor swelling of the knee, and prescribed ibuprofen. On October 31, 2022, the detainee disclosed his 15-year chronic knee pain to a nurse practitioner (NP) during sick call. The NP prescribed the detainee a knee brace and ibuprofen as treatment and scheduled a follow-up appointment. On December 1, 2022, a BTC physician evaluated the detainee and scheduled an orthopedic consultation. On December 14, 2022, an orthopedic specialist evaluated the detainee and diagnosed a dislocated kneecap and a sprain of the soft-tissue muscle located behind the kneecap. The orthopedic specialist

educated the detainee on muscle group exercises to strengthen his knee muscles and the detainee acknowledged understanding. On January 6, 2023, ODO followed-up with the HSA and confirmed the detainee made no further sick call requests regarding knee pain.

Staff-Detainee Communication: One female detainee stated a BTC facility officer called her and other detainees a derogatory term.

- Action Taken: On December 13, 2022, ODO interviewed a BTC lieutenant (LT) and the ERO Miami assistant FOD, reviewed the BTC incident report, and found a BTC officer attempted to keep detainees in place for an accurate head count on December 1, 2022. The report stated the detainees said the BTC officer called them a derogatory term after detainees left their rooms and refused to return for the head count. Later in the same day, the BTC LT met with the detainees alleging the BTC officer’s verbal abuse. The detainees admitted they refused to go to their rooms for the count because they felt they could leave at any time after 2 p.m., regardless of the head count requirement. None of the detainees accused the BTC officer of verbal abuse while speaking with the LT, and the LT reminded them the head count is a direct order for all to obey. The LT identified the detainees claiming verbal abuse and an additional claim that female BTC officers disliked them. Both BTC and ERO Miami found no evidence to support the verbal abuse claim but confirmed follow-up training for BTC staff on staff-detainee communications. ERO Miami found the incident did not meet threshold criteria for entry into the Joint Integrity Case Management System and did not make any further report.

COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

SAFETY

TRANSPORTATION (BY LAND) (TBL)

ODO reviewed the BTC TBL program and personnel records, interviewed facility staff, observed transportation vehicles and equipment, and found no written guidelines to track vehicles and no posted copies for tracing procedures to locate an overdue vehicle (**Deficiency TBL-122**⁷).

SECURITY

TOOL CONTROL (TC)

ODO reviewed the BTC TC program and five tool lists, interviewed the tool control officer, and found in two out of five facility tool lists, no alphabetical ordering of tools. Specifically, the food

⁷ “Each office shall develop and post written guidelines for tracing procedures to locate an overdue vehicle. If the vehicle does not arrive within range of the ETA, the contact point shall set the tracing procedures in motion.” See ICE PBND 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Transportation (by Land), Section (V)(K)(1).

service and armory tool lists lacked an alphabetical listing of tools (**Deficiency TC-35⁸**).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility’s compliance with 24 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 22 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining two standards. ODO recommends ERO Miami work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations. ODO has not received the uniformed corrective active plan for ODO’s last inspection of BTC in July 2022.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2022 PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016)	FY 2023 PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	18	24
Deficient Standards	4	2
Overall Number of Deficiencies	6	2
Priority Component	N/A	0
Repeat Deficiencies	2	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior

⁸ “The facility administrator shall establish a policy document on facility tool use and storage that includes separate, comprehensive, alphabetical lists of both restricted and non-restricted tools.” See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Tool Control, Section (V)(C).