

Office of Professional Responsibility

East Hidalgo Detention Center

Inspection 2025-006-089

May 20, 2025



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION
of the
EAST HIDALGO DETENTION CENTER
La Villa, Texas

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INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead
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ODO

FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted an ODO assisted self-inspection process inspection (OASIP) of the East Hidalgo Detention Center (EHDC) in La Villa, Texas, from April 22 to May 22, 2025, which included a 1-day on site visit on May 20, 2025.¹ The facility opened in 2001 and is owned and operated by The Geo Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at EHDC in 2011 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Harlingen (ERO Harlingen). ICE is an authorized user of this facility under a United States Marshals Service Intergovernmental Agreement contract, which does not specify an ICE National Detention Standard (NDS). ODO inspected EHDC against the NDS 2019, which is the NDS listed on the ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of May 19, 2025.

[REDACTED]. A facility administrator handles daily operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. GEO provides food services and medical care, and U.S. Commissary Solutions provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the American Correctional Association in August 2023.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of May 20, 2025)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of May 20, 2025)	[REDACTED]

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 4 deficiencies in Environmental Health and Safety (3) and Food Service (1).

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

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of May 19, 2025.

³ *Ibid.*

ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION PROCESS

In FY 2025, ODO implemented an OASIP, which replaces the annual Special Review inspections ODO conducted at most low average daily population (ADP) and/or short-term use facilities. This new inspection framework is more reflective of the actual operational demand of facilities with a low ADP and/or short-term use. OASIP inspections focus on facility compliance with ICE NDS 2019 requirements that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, and have corresponding Federal Performance Based Detention Standards requirements. Facilities have 30 calendar days to complete the OASIP inspection and ODO staff will go on site towards the end of the 30-day inspection window to observe facility conditions, interview ICE detainees, and spot-check at each facility to observe facility conditions, interview ICE detainees, and spot-check the facility's reported findings.

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 as corrective actions. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with "C" under the *Assisted Self-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.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected. ⁴	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Medical Care	0
Personal Hygiene	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	0

⁴ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the ODO Assisted Self-Inspection Findings section of this report.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

The facility's ICE detainee population count was zero during the inspection; therefore, ODO did not conduct any detainee interviews. Despite the facility housing no detainees during the on-site inspection, the facility maintains an active contract to house ICE detainees and had an ADP of 1 ICE detainee for FY 2024.

ODO ASSISTED SELF-INSPECTION FINDINGS

ODO found no deficiencies during the inspection.

CONCLUSION

During this OASIP, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with all 10 standards. This inspection is the facility's first OASIP. Since the facility's last rated inspection under NDS 2000 in July 2023, EHDC's compliance has trended upward. EHDC went from 2 deficient standards and 4 deficiencies in July 2023 to no deficient standards or deficiencies during this most recent inspection. ODO received EHDC's completed uniform corrective action plan for its last rated inspection in July 2023, which likely resolved the previous deficiencies ODO cited. ODO recommends ERO Harlingen continue to work with the facility to maintain its high level of compliance with NDS 2019.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review (NDS 2000)	FY 2025 OASIP Inspection (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	10	10
Deficient Standards	2	0
Overall Number of Deficiencies	4	0
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	N/A	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior



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