



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

**Office of Detention Oversight
Follow-Up Compliance Inspection**

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

**Laredo Processing Center
Laredo, Texas**

September 13-16, 2021

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION
of the
LAREDO PROCESSING CENTER
Laredo, Texas

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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 Laredo Processing Center (LPC) in Laredo, Texas, from September 13 to 16, 2021.¹ This inspection focused on the standards found deficient during ODO’s last inspection of LPC from March 8 to 12, 2021. The facility opened in February 1985 and is owned and operated by CoreCivic. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at LPC in 1985 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in San Antonio (ERO San Antonio). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

ERO has assigned deportation officers and a detention services manager to the facility. An LPC warden handles daily facility operations and manages █ support personnel. Trinity Food Service provides food services, CoreCivic provides medical care, and Keefe provides commissary services at the facility. The facility does not hold any national accreditations from any outside entities.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Detainee Bed Capacity ²	█
Average ICE Detainee Population ³	█
Male Detainee Population (as of September 13, 2021)	█
Female Detainee Population (as of September 13, 2021)	█

During its last inspection, in March 2021, ODO found four deficiencies in the following areas: Medical Care (1); Special Management Units (2); Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1).

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

²Data Source: ERO Facility List Report as of September 13, 2021.

³*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, Hunger Strikes, 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.

ODO was unable to conduct an on-site inspection of this facility, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and instead, conducted a remote inspection of the facility. During this remote inspection, ODO interviewed facility staff, ERO field office staff, and detainees, reviewed files and detention records, and was able to assess compliance for at least 90 percent or more of the ICE national detention standards reviewed during the inspection.

FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected ^{4&5}	Deficiencies
Part 1 – Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 – Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 4 – Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	1
Significant Self-Harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	1
Total Deficiencies	1

⁴ For greater detail on ODO’s findings, see the *Follow-Up Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

⁵ Beginning in FY 2021, ODO added Emergency Plans, Facility Security and Control, Population Counts, Hunger Strikes, and Staff Training as core standards. NDS 2019 does not include Emergency Plans, Population Counts, nor Staff Training as individual standards; however, those specific requirements are resident in other core standards.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 12 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. ODO conducted detainee interviews via video teleconference.

FOLLOW-UP COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

CARE

MEDICAL CARE (MC)

ODO reviewed [REDACTED] detainee medical records and found [REDACTED] referrals for mental health did not receive an evaluation by a qualified mental health provider within 7 days of the referral. Specifically, LPC completed the detainee mental health evaluations 17 and 32 days after the referrals (**Deficiency MC-127⁶**).

CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 9 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining one standard. ODO commends facility staff members for their responsiveness during this inspection. ODO recommends ERO San Antonio work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations. ERO provided ODO with the uniform corrective action plan for ODO's last inspection of LPC on June 21, 2021.

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	First FY 2021 (NDS 2019)	Second FY 2021 (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	18	10
Deficient Standards	3	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	4	1
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0

⁶ "Any detainee referred for mental health treatment shall be triaged for any emergency needs and receive an evaluation by a qualified mental health provider no later than seven days after the referral." See ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Medical Care, Section (II)(S)(2).