

**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 Compliance Inspection

## Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO Dallas Field Office

## Rolling Plains Detention Center Haskell, Texas

December 13-16, 2021

#### COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the ROLLING PLAINS DETENTION CENTER Haskell, Texas

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## **COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS**



Acting Team Lead Inspections and Compliance Specialist Inspections and Compliance Specialist Contractor Contractor Contractor Contractor

ODO ODO ODO Creative Corrections Creative Corrections Creative Corrections Creative Corrections

#### 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 Rolling Plains Detention Center (RPDC) in Haskell, Texas, from December 13 to 16, 2021.<sup>1</sup> The facility opened in 2018 and is owned and operated by LaSalle Corrections. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at RPDC in 2018 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in Dallas (ERO Dallas). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2000.

ERO has not assigned deportation officers nor a detention services manager to the facility. An RPDC warden handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. LaSalle Corrections provides food services and medical care, and Correct Commissary provides commissary services at the facility. The facility was accredited by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in March 2021.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Detainee Bed Capacity <sup>2</sup>	
Average ICE Detainee Population <sup>3</sup>	
Male Detainee Population (as of December 13, 2021)	
Female Detainee Population (as of December 13, 2021)	

During its last inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, ODO found two deficiencies in the following area: Admission and Release (2).

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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Facility List Report as of December 13, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 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 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.<sup>4</sup>

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures as "deficiencies." ODO also highlights instances in which 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 its decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency's entire detention inventory.

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

### FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2000 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2000 Standards Inspected <sup>5,6</sup>	Deficiencies
Part 1 – Detainee Services	
Admission and Release	0
Correspondence and Other Mail	1
Detainee Classification System	0
Food Service	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Group Presentations on Legal Rights	0
Issuance and Exchange of Clothing, Bedding and Towels	0
Marriage Requests	0
Non-Medical Emergency Escorted Trips	0
Voluntary Work Program <sup>7</sup>	0
Sub-Total	1
Part 2 – Security and Control	
Detention Files	0
Detainee Transfers	0
Emergency Plans	0
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Post Orders	0
Special Management Unit (Administrative Segregation)	0
Special Management Unit (Disciplinary Segregation)	0
Use of Force	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 3 – Health Services	
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	1
Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	1
Other Standard Inspected	
NDS 2019 Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</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 inspections.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> ODO attempted to review the standard in full and found the facility does not have a voluntary work program.

## **DETAINEE RELATIONS**

ODO interviewed 12 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. ODO attempted to conduct detainee interviews via video teleconference; however, ERO Dallas and RPDC were not able to accommodate this request due to technological issues. As such, ODO conducted the detainee interviews via telephone.

## **COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS**

#### **DETAINEE SERVICES**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER MAIL (COM)**

ODO reviewed the facility's supplemental handbook and found the handbook does not notify detainees that identity documents, such as passports, birth certificates, etc., in a detainee's possession are contraband and ERO may use it as evidence or as otherwise appropriate (**Deficiency COM-5**<sup>8</sup>).

#### **HEALTH SERVICES**

#### **MEDICAL CARE (MC)**

ODO reviewed  $\blacksquare$  detainee medical records and found in  $\blacksquare$  out of  $\blacksquare$  records, a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner did not complete the initial dental screening. Specifically, a registered nurse conducted the initial screening (**Deficiency MC-51**<sup>9</sup>).

## CONCLUSION

During this inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 21 standards under NDS 2000 and 1 standard under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 20 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining two standards. ODO commends facility staff members for their responsiveness during this inspection. ODO recommends ERO Dallas work with the facility to resolve any deficiencies that remain outstanding in accordance with contractual obligations. ODO has not received the uniform corrective action plan for ODO's last inspection of RPDC on June 14, 2021.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "The facility shall notify detainees of its policy on correspondence and other mail through the detainee handbook or equivalent provided to each detainee upon admittance. At a minimum, the notification shall specify: ...

<sup>7.</sup> The notification will state that identity documents, such as passports, birth certificates, etc., are contraband and may be used by the INS as evidence or as otherwise appropriate." *See* ICE NDS 2000, Standard, Correspondence and Other Mail, Section (III)(B)(7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "If no on-site dentist is available, the initial dental screening may be performed by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner." *See* ICE NDS 2000, Standard, Medical Care, Section (III)(E).

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2021 (NDS 2000)	FY 2022 (NDS 2000)/ (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	13	21/1
Deficient Standards	1	2
Overall Number of Deficiencies	2	2
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	N/A	Superior