



Issue Brief - 2008

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Office of Inspector General and the Special Investigations Unit

Overview

The position of Inspector General was created in 1990 as recommended by an investigative report to the Governor. In 2006, the unit became part of the new Public Services Division. The Inspector General also serves as the Assistant Director for the Public Services Division. The Office of Inspector General provides an oversight function on behalf of the Director and Deputy Director of the Department of Corrections (DOC).

The Inspector General has broad responsibility for oversight of suspected, alleged or actual misconduct within the DOC, reporting to the Director and Deputy, and to other officials as required by law and the DOC Code of Conduct. The role of the Inspector General is to investigate allegations of staff and/or inmate misconduct after all other avenues have been exhausted. Not all issues require the attention of the Inspector General, but no issue will be ignored.

Anyone can make an allegation against an inmate or staff member. Once an allegation is made, SIU is contacted and its trained investigators initiate an investigation. The SIU will act in an unbiased manner and find the facts to either confirm the accusation with evidence or to identify that the allegation was unsubstantiated or fraudulent.

SIU Responsibilities

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) has a responsibility to its internal and external stakeholders to provide a service in assisting with the safety and security of our institutions and work places.

SIU provides investigative services to all DOC institutions and facilities. The unit has investigators specializing in fugitive apprehension and prevention, drug and contraband investigations, inmate investigations and investigations regarding employee, volunteer, contractor and visitor misconduct. The unit is a resource to DOC staff and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies by providing them with intelligence and investigative assistance as it relates to inmates' criminal misconduct.

The Fugitive Apprehension Unit

SIU assists law enforcement in locating and apprehending inmates who escape from the supervision and control of DOC or who walk away from community supervision.

The Fugitive Apprehension Unit is responsible for gathering information about inmates who escape from secure custody, or walk away from fenced and unfenced facilities and/or inmate work crews. This information is provided to law enforcement who assist us in locating and apprehending these escapees.

Drug and Contraband Investigations

During drug investigations, SIU gathers information through investigatory techniques and canine searches to identify contraband in facilities and impede the introduction of contraband and controlled substances into DOC facilities.

SIU manages the Department's inmate random urine drug testing program in which a sample of the inmate population is selected and tested for illegal

substances each month through a computerized random selection process.

In addition to random drug tests, the program also includes testing based on allegations that someone is involved with drugs or alcohol. Every month 200 inmates are targeted with drug tests and cell searches. The Department determines which inmates to test based on factors, such as previous drug use, that often lead to drug possession.

Drug testing of inmates by use of the random and for cause testing criteria, combined with appropriate graduated sanctions, is an effective means of suppressing drug use, drug trafficking and drug related violations prohibited within DOC facilities.

K-9 Unit

DOC has six handlers and detection canines. All DOC institutions, buildings and work sites are searched by canine teams. This service supports the Department's efforts in making our institutions more safe and secure by reducing drugs and other contraband.

Inspector General's Hotline

The Inspector General's Hotline may be used to report criminal activity, abuse by staff, volunteers, contractors or inmates, or issues related to the safety and security of the institution, staff and/or inmates.

All messages left on the Inspector General Hotline are reviewed each business day. If the information is credible, follow-up action will occur.

Inmate toll-free number: (503) 555-1234

Public and staff toll-free number: (877) 678-4222



**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by holding
offenders accountable for their actions
and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



**Max Williams, Director
(503) 945-0920**

**Mitch Morrow, Deputy Director
(503) 945-0921**

**Colette S. Peters
Assistant Director for the
Public Services Division
& Inspector General
(503) 945-9092**

**Oregon Department of Corrections
2575 Center Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301-4667**

www.oregon.gov/doc