



Issue Brief - 2008

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Office of Inspector General and the Security Threat Management Unit

Overview

To assist in the safety and security in Oregon's institutions the Department of Corrections (DOC) utilizes the Security Threat Management (STM) Unit in the Office of Inspector General. STM has three primary functions: high alert inmate management, Department-wide intelligence gathering, and investigative support to superintendents during major incidents.

Under this model, all staff are considered intelligence gatherers and work together to identify high-alert inmates. There are two ways an inmate can become high alert. First, there is a misconduct process that takes place when an inmate receives a Disciplinary Report (DR) and is found guilty of at least one of the 11 specific violations. This means inmates can become high-alert based on their conduct as institution staff members hold them accountable.

The second way an inmate can become high alert is through administrative action. Any DOC staff member can fill out a predicate statement if they feel an inmate needs elevated, proactive management. Institution staff and STM Lieutenants work collaboratively to gain intelligence and validate the inmate's security threat activity. Those inmates identified in such activity will be labeled high-alert through administrative action.

High-Alert Status

If the misconduct process is used, a DR must be completed, a violation cited and a hearing must be held, in which an inmate is found guilty. The following reasons can lead to STM management:

- Arson/Explosive Device
- Distribution
- High Risk Escapes
- Hostage Taking
- Inmate Assaults
- Inmate/Staff Relationships
- Interstate Transfer to Oregon
- Sexually Aggressive
- Staff Assaults
- Security Threat Group High Risk Behavior
- Weapons

There are currently 700 high alert inmates assigned to the STM Unit. Once an inmate is placed on high alert, the inmate is assigned to a STM Lieutenant, who will track the inmate's behavior and progress. The Lieutenant will manage high alert inmates and be cross-trained to conduct major investigations. STM Lieutenants work in partnership with institution staff to formulate management plans for each STM inmate. Currently, there are six STM Lieutenants strategically located across the state.

Each STM inmate will have an Inmate Management Plan with their STM Lieutenant. In situations where the inmate is not plan compliant the STM Lieutenant will work with staff (security, counselors, etc.) and can place restrictions on the inmate and while working conjunctively with the institution to bring the inmate into compliance. Some examples of possible restrictions include yard, canteen, phone and visiting restrictions.

Participation from DOC staff members is a central role in the success of the STM program. All DOC staff work together by providing intelligence, monitoring inmate behavior and assisting in the management of high alert inmates. This

Department-wide team approach will ensure safer institutions for staff and inmates and further the department's mission and commitment to the Oregon Accountability Model. ■

**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.**



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