

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2006-2007 GRAND JURY REPORTS (District: All))

**County of San Diego Response to Grand Jury Report:
“Conditions and Management of Detention Facilities in San Diego County”
Issued May 29, 2007**

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 07-81: Continue the ongoing recruitment efforts and establish a task force or consider hiring a consultant to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing referred to in several individual detention facility reports.

Response: **The recommendation has been implemented.** The Probation Department will continue recruitment efforts that include:

- Identified one Deputy Probation Officer position for full-time Recruitment Officer.
- Incentive for staff to refer sworn officer candidates (24 hours Comp Time Off per Fiscal Year).
- Posting of job information on college websites and HirePatriots.com, in and out of county job fairs.
- Vehicle wrapping with employment information.
- Variable entry salary for advanced education/experience.
- 40% discount at National University.
- Flexible work schedules (9/80, telecommuting, 4/10 Pilot Program).
- Correctional Senior Probation Officer job study (promotional ladder for institutional staff).
- Mentor Program.

A Probation Department task force has been established to address the overpopulation at the juvenile detention facilities and determine staffing needs. As a related issue, the task force will review recruitment and retention practices and develop recommendations for improving department initiatives in these areas. The department will also consider using a consultant, in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department and the Public Safety Group, to examine current recruitment policies and formulate a comprehensive recruitment plan to address the understaffing in detention facilities.

CAMP BARRETT JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

Finding: Available ward transportation is by a 1980s era bus which has difficulty negotiating the hills and the distance to be traveled through rural countryside. Maintenance is costly and parts difficult to obtain.

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Response: Agree

Finding: Camp Barrett is a well-managed facility. Although dependent on overtime funding for adequate operational staffing, the health, welfare, education, and rehabilitation of the wards are being achieved. This Grand Jury was advised that Camp Barrett is currently experiencing its best leadership ever.

Response: Agree

Finding: Although an exercise work-out area is well supplied, the wards' recreational opportunities are less than adequate due to a substandard condition of the athletic field.

Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 07-88: Allocate funding to recondition the athletic field.

Response: **The recommendation is in the process of being implemented.** This area has been leveled and is currently being used, but reseeding, irrigation, and seating will be explored. The department will use the Building/Grounds Maintenance Regional Occupational Program (ROP) to assist with the upgrading, and explore additional funding to make these improvements.

Recommendation 07-89: Replace the approximately 25-year-old bus currently in use at Camp Barrett.

Response: **The recommendation is in the process of being implemented.** The Probation Department is reviewing the vehicle fleet at Camp Barrett to obtain additional or replacement vehicles. A new mini-bus for camp is being researched with possible delivery in approximately one year.

EAST MESA JUVENILE DETENTION FACILITY

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

Finding: EMJDF is very well maintained. This facility is managed and operated by a staff of sworn officers and professional personnel dedicated to the safety, health, welfare, education and rehabilitation of young male and female offenders.

Response: Agree

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KEARNY MESA JUVENILE FACILITY

Finding: The Kearny Mesa Juvenile Facility is showing its age. Several areas need painting, floor tiles need replacing and stained ceiling tiles are proof of a leaking roof or leaking pipes. The building has an unmistakable odor caused by more than 50 years of occupancy by detainees.

Response: Agree

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Probation Department:

Recommendation 07-90: Establish a plan and priority for building a new main juvenile detention facility.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented at this time. With the recent construction of the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, the Probation Department was able to move over one-third of juvenile detainees from Kearny Mesa to the new facility. However, the department is also committed to maintaining the Kearny Mesa facility to ensure the safety and security of the detainees and staff. To accomplish this, the following repairs have been made to enhance the current structure:

- Replaced detainee door windows.
- Increased lighting in detainee rooms by installing new fixtures.
- Replaced shower stalls and toilet doors in living units.
- Replaced toilets and sinks.
- Repaired/painted walls in living units.

The department is also reviewing the feasibility of the following projects:

- Professional vent cleaning throughout facility.
- Steam cleaning of detainee rooms.
- Painting, replacing floor tiles and stained ceiling tiles.
- Inspection of possible roof or pipe leaks.

Given the County's limited public funds and the competing, higher-priority criminal justice and public safety needs of the region, the County will not be pursuing this recommendation at this time.

The 2006-2007 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County Board of Supervisors:

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Recommendation 07-91: Establish a priority and seek funding to build a new main juvenile detention facility.

Response: **The recommendation will not be implemented.** See the response above to Recommendation 07-90.

EAST MESA FOOD AND LAUNDRY FACILITY

Finding: This operation is well run, cost effective (using inmate personnel) and up to date.

Response: **Agree**

Finding: This laundry operation is well run and efficient despite the obstacles that can be present due to cramped working conditions and heat.

Response: **Agree**