
APPENDIX 8

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

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Inspector General



May 18, 2001

Mr. Odie Washington, Director
District of Columbia Department of Corrections
1923 Vermont Avenue, Northwest
Suite N203
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Washington:

This is a Management Alert Report (MAR 01-I-006) to inform you of an issue that has come to our attention during our inspection of the Central Detention facility (CDF). The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provides these reports when we believe a serious matter requires the immediate attention of a District of Columbia official.

The OIG inspection team has determined that Department of Corrections and District of Columbia Central Detention Facility (CDF) management has not considered all possible relocation alternatives for temporarily housing inmates during the renovation of the CDF. There are alternatives that could result in substantial cost and time savings, as well as reduce security and project management concerns.

During interviews with engineers from the Facilities Management Division of the CDF, the inspection team learned of the extensive renovation project. The project is included in the Capital Improvement Projects program and has an estimated cost of \$25 million. The first contract for the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Hot Water System Upgrade has been awarded, with several more contracts to follow in the near future.

There are 18 cellblocks that can hold a court-ordered maximum of 1674 inmates. CDF officials stated that renovation of all cellblocks and the rest of the facility would take approximately 3-to-3 1/2 years.

The current renovation plan calls for the relocation of inmates from one cellblock at a time to other cellblocks where space is available. CDF officials stated that relocating inmates from one cellblock at a time creates enormous concerns and problems for CDF staff and contractor personnel. Security, for example, would be a major concern and would require increased vigilance by everyone, especially CDF guards. All tools entering and departing the CDF would have to be inventoried and contract personnel must be held accountable in the event of missing items. Additionally, moving inmates one cellblock at a time creates opportunities for inmate disruptions or a catastrophic event over time.