

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
MULE CREEK STATE PRISON
4001 HIGHWAY 104
P.O. Box 409099
Ione, CA 95640



August 20, 2018

The Honorable Judge Renee C. Day
Amador County Superior Court
500 Argonaut Way, Jackson, CA 95642

Dear Honorable Judge Day:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to the 2017-2018 Amador County Civil Grand Jury Special Report on Mule Creek State Prison (MCSP).

GRAND JURY'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Not all employees are checking out and carrying their mandated Personal Alarm Device (PAD). Personnel place themselves and others in harm's way by not properly using their mandated alarms.

I concur with the Grand Jury's findings and recommendation.

The Grand Jury recommends enforcing the policy of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) on the use of mandated PADSs on a shift basis until all staff is abiding by the current policy.

Supervisors and Managers continually make tours of their areas of responsibility checking on employee's adherence to this policy by ensuring they are wearing their assigned PADs. The use of PADs is discussed during annual training, employee orientation and a consistent topic during staff meetings. Educating and holding staff accountable for following the policy will continue.

2. The off-hook alarm system is not working correctly. Main Control can't locate where the phone is that is going off quickly with certainty. It is not uncommon for 25-30 alarms to go off during an 8-hour shift causing responding staff to run and check it out. Because the phones are not clearly describing locations, staff and inmates are placed in harm's way.

I partially agree with the Grand Jury's findings. Main Control is alerted to any and all off-hook telephone alarms; however, some of them display the word "Unknown" instead of the phone number where the alarm is coming from. A review of the frequency was completed and based on the data from Main Control, the average number of off-hook alarms for a one day period (24 hours) is approximately 8, not 25-30 as cited by the Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury recommends the off-hook telephone system be repaired, have the descriptors match what Main Control has available to them, so that alarms can be responded to quickly and efficiently. Additionally, rectify the cause of the excessive false alarms.

I concur with the Grand Jury's recommendations.

The off-hook alarm system has been repaired. The descriptors have been updated to properly identify which off-hook phone is being activated.

3. When keys, ammunition, or other monitored items are issued, not all are being correctly inventoried before shift transfer. The Grand Jury found that two sets of keys have come up missing in the last three months. This is a security risk and an additional financial cost to the institution.

I concur with the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations.

The Grand Jury recommends enforcement of current policy on shift transfers of inventory property.

MCSP will continue to conduct its daily/shift inventories of keys, ammunition and all other monitored critical items. Inspections and audits by supervisors/managers will continue as mandated by CDCR policy.

4. Employees are not adhering to the "no cell phone" policy. Cellphones are not allowed within the secured area of the prison. An average of five employees a year are walked off the premises for bringing in some form of contraband (Cell phone, cigarettes, etc.).

I agree with the Grand Jury's findings. There have been isolated incidents of staff violating the "no cell phone" policy.

I concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation to increase security checks for employee contraband. MCSP will continue to conduct its monthly (or more frequent) security checks of employees both entering and exiting the institution.

The dates and times are random and confidential in order to maintain the integrity of the searches.

5. Current physician hours are from Monday-Friday day shift (7:30 am – 3:00 pm). Outside of those hours, a doctor is on call. Inmates are routinely transported to off-site medical facilities during and after regular doctor hours.

I concur with the Grand Jury's findings.

The Grand Jury recommends the on-site doctors' hours need to be extended daily, and to include weekends and holidays.

The Grand Jury's recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. From January 2018 to present, the data shows there is not a significant increase in emergency transports on weekends and holidays that would warrant the doctors to work on weekends and holidays. Moreover, this change would affect recruitment and retention efforts.

6. On a yearly average, there are 1100 ambulance runs to MCSP. While an ambulance is being used for the prison, other areas of Amador County have less protection.

I concur with the Grand Jury's finding.

The Grand Jury recommends the prison investigate whether American Legion will increase its fleet to have two ambulances dedicated for the sole use of MCSP. This would provide the citizens of the county with quicker medical transports without having unnecessary delays. If on-site doctors' hours at MCSP were increased, it would also reduce the number of ambulance runs necessary.

I concur with the Grand Jury's recommendation. MCSP Health Care Services Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is willing to collaborate with American Legion in order to request additional emergency medical transportation services for Amador County.

7. The Office of Inspector General's Report published in May 2016 found MCSP inadequate in 13 out of 14 quality indicators. The new CEO of Health Care Services indicated that she expected scores to improve somewhat in the next OIG report and then be greatly improved in subsequent reports.

I concur with the Grand Jury's findings.

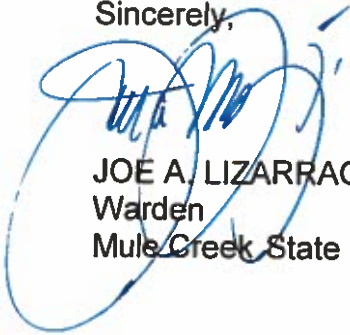
The Grand Jury recommends the Civil Grand Jury of 2018/2019 should obtain and read the next OIG report to verify that there have been improvements in the deficiencies delineated in the 2016 report.

MCSP Cycle 5 OIG Medical Inspection Report, dated April 2018 is available for review at the OIG website <https://www.oig.ca.gov/>.


MCSP is committed to protecting public safety, ensuring the safety of staff and inmates, and providing proper care and supervision of all offenders under its jurisdiction. MCSP strives to provide rehabilitative opportunities to assist offender's reintegration into society. We welcome the Grand Jury's review of our policies and procedures and would like to thank the Grand Jury for their service and professionalism.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (209) 274-5000.

Sincerely,



JOE A. LIZARRAGA
Warden
Mule Creek State Prison



RAINBOW BROCKENBOROUGH
Chief Executive Officer
Mule Creek State Prison