

# **2005-2006 GRAND JURY REPORT**

## **Riverside County Sheriff's Department**

### **Corrections Division**

#### **Background**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to maintain the County's detention (jail) facilities.

The mission statement of the Riverside Sheriff's Department Corrections Division states in part, "...to serve and protect the citizens of Riverside County and the State of California, by detaining the people under its supervision in a safe and secure environment, while providing for their humane care, custody and control."

At present, there are five jail facilities within the county:

- Robert Presley Detention Center
- Southwest Detention Center
- Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility
- Indio Jail Facility
- Blythe Jail Facility

The 2005-06 budget for the Riverside Sheriff's Department Corrections Division is \$106,808,762, which includes a total of 1,064 authorized/funded positions.

To determine compliance with General Orders <sup>1</sup> (G.O.) and California Code of Regulations Title 15, the Grand Jury conducted a random review of Use of Force Reports and tracking of inmate movement between facilities.

<sup>1</sup> The policies, rules and regulations of the Sheriff's Department are known as General Orders.

## **Findings**

1. A review of Use of Force Report and Use of Force Witness Report (RSD Forms 553 and 553-B) files reflected that many had not been accurately completed. Incident dates differed from those referenced in the reporting deputies' narratives. Details in the witness report forms did not always match the primary reports. Inaccuracies in these reports were not addressed when reviewed and signed by supervisors.
2. Medical assessment or treatment was not provided to some inmates who had been exposed to Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray).
3. One responsibility of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) is to assign a team member to video record all use of force incidents. The retention period for these files, including the video record, is current year plus five years. ERT videotapes were often missing in the Use of Force documentation files.
4. Custody Transfer/Transportation Orders (RSD Form 533) were missing pertinent information. These orders did not reflect a complete history of inmate(s) movement(s) between Riverside County jail facilities.
5. Correctional deputies are allowed to work overtime at other Riverside County jail facilities where G.O. procedures may differ.

## **Recommendations**

### **Riverside County Board of Supervisors Riverside County Sheriff**

1. The Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Department adhere to California Code of Regulations Title 15, article 1.5, §3268.1(a), which requires (1) "An employee who uses or observes non-deadly force...shall document that fact." and (2) "The employee's immediate supervisor shall review the document to ensure that it is adequately prepared..."
2. Inmates receive treatment by medical staff after exposure to Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray). In the absence of medical staff, custody/corrections staff provide treatment (G.O. 503.04).

3. Any time the ERT is deployed to an incident requiring the use of force, the episode be video recorded and maintained according to established procedure (G.O. 503.09).
4. Correctional deputies assigned to transferring and transporting of inmates to "...be familiar with transfer requirements and paperwork." (G.O. 510.03)
5. Correctional deputies working overtime in other Riverside County jail facilities demonstrate a working knowledge of that facility's G.O. prior to the authorization of overtime.

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