



Overview

Established in 2005, formerly Office of Investigations & Compliance, the office efficiently and effectively coordinates, collaborates, assimilates and disseminates information, findings and intelligence to the leadership and staff of the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), as well as external local, state and federal entities and agencies.

The Office of Professional Standards falls under the Executive Operations division and is comprised of five (5) Individual Units and two (2) Statewide Program Coordinators. To protect and serve the public, employees and offenders by gathering information, examining operations, enforcing departmental standards and laws and recommending solutions.

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Audits & Compliance Unit

Mission: To evaluate the operations through comprehensive audits of facilities and field offices (facilities and probation circuits) utilizing departmental standards and ensuring safe, secure and efficient operation.

- Comprised of (14) senior staff members
- Audit topics cover all areas from accounting to security and safety
- Audit findings are addressed immediately and a follow-up audit is conducted regarding the findings within 90 days
- In fiscal year (FY) 2014, over 155 audits were performed



Internal Investigations Unit

Mission: To enforce departmental standards and laws

- Conducts criminal and administrative investigations related to the GDC
- Comprised of (43) seasoned staff
- Investigations involve both staff, offenders and civilians
- Case examples are:
 - Aggravated assault

- Rape
- Corruption
- Fraud
- Drug possession
- Theft
- Sexual harassment
- Investigators receive extensive training
- Units work closely with state, local and federal law enforcement partners

STATEWIDE PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) COORDINATOR

- Staffed by (2) Senior Staff Members
- Responsible for ensuring that the GDC is in compliance with the National PREA Standards
 - Accomplished by conducting audits, training, drafting guidelines and policies
- Works closely with Facilities and Probation leadership



Intelligence Unit

Mission: To collect, evaluate and analyze information and disseminate intelligence data regarding subversive and criminal activity involving inmates, probationers or employees of the GDC.

Goal: To provide operational support to the Office of Professional Standards, Facilities Operations and Senior Leadership. Provides Executive staff with real-time information.

- Comprised of nine (9) staff members
- Gather information from a myriad of sources and vetted for relevance and accuracy
- Involved in numerous partnerships with state, local and federal law enforcement
- Enjoy a robust relationship with the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)
 - GISAC is one of 72 U.S. Department of Homeland Security designated fusion centers in the country created by state and local agencies to enhance communication and information flow between local, state and federal agencies

STATEWIDE SECURITY THREAT COORDINATOR

Mission: To identify Security Threat Groups and Individuals and to track their activities and movements.

- Operates from within the Intelligence Unit

- Oversees the daily efforts of the Security Threat Group Investigators at each facility



Inmate Affairs and Ombudsman Unit

Mission: Ensure that the rights and safety of offenders are protected. Promote fairness, accountability and integrity by investigating public and offender grievances, appeals and inquiries regarding unfair practices and non-compliance of policy.

- Comprised of six (6) staff members
- Act as liaison between community and Department pertaining to the care and safety of an offender
- Receive and document complaints made against Department by offenders' friends and family
- Interface with Criminal Investigations Unit, Criminal Intelligence Unit and PREA Coordinator to help resolve issues

INVESTIGATORS

- Comprised of (20) staff
- Conduct administrative investigations
- Investigations are related to inmate grievances and disciplinary reports
 - FY2014: 6,019 grievance appeals were investigated
 - FY2014: 3,340 disciplinary appeals were investigated
 - FY2014: 2,401 Use of Force reports were reviewed

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS

- Comprised of five (5) Ombudsman Unit agents

- Staff serve as a bridge between concerned civilians, the inmate population and the GDC staff
 - FY2014: 10,744 Ombudsman customer concerns were addressed (letters, emails and phone calls)



Fugitive Apprehension Unit

Mission: To recapture escapees from GDC's facilities. In addition, they conduct criminal investigations to locate and apprehend wanted, dangerous sexual predators.

- Comprised of (14) highly trained Investigators and (1) Criminal Analyst, who conducts research for the investigators.
- Sex Offender Apprehension Team, a subset of the unit, focuses specifically on absconded sex offenders.
- Partnered with the U.S. Marshals which allows the unit to access worldwide resources as well as acts as a force multiplier.
 - FY 2014: there were 109 escapes and absconds from GDC custody. All recaptured.
 - FY2014: 1,159 fugitive cases were closed
 - FY2014: 179 wanted sex offenders were apprehended
 - FY2014: the unit assisted other agencies with 622 arrests

