



Safer Prisons, Fewer Cell Phones

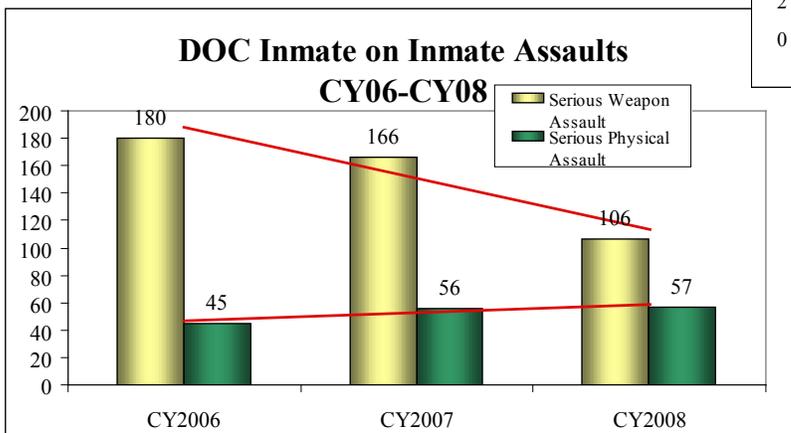
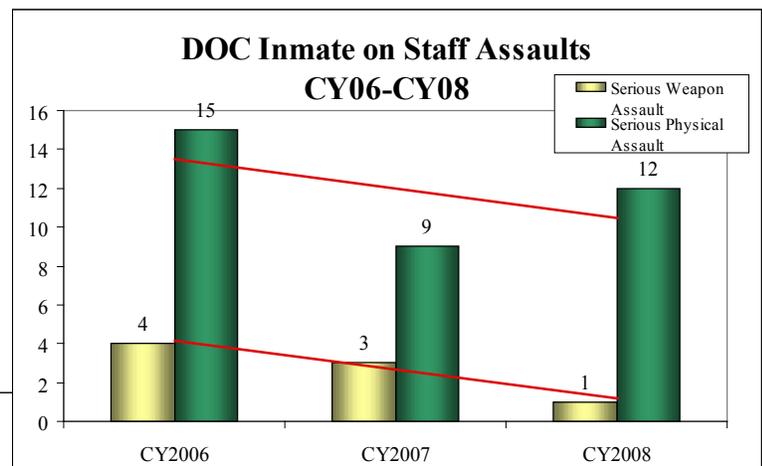
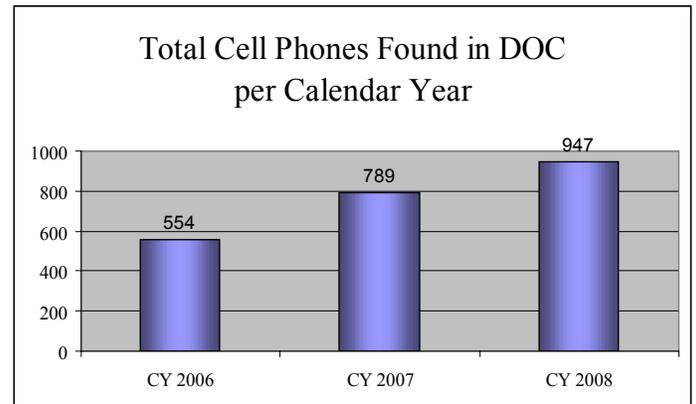
Over the last 20 months our increased security priorities have dramatically increased the safety our institutional staff.

Two of the Department's correctional divisions have developed and implemented new security strategies targeting illegal activity inside our institutions, improving safety for both staff and offenders during 2008 - the Division of Corrections (DOC) and the (DPDS) Division of Pretrial Detention and Services.

A major objective of these efforts is contraband cell phones, which can be a major factor in violence inside and outside the fence, connecting many offenders back to their former lifestyle.

Leading the way, our DOC K-9 Unit began training dogs to locate cell phones in June of 2008 and have since sniffed out 75 across the system. In combination with other security practices this increased cell phone recoveries across the system by 71% in 2008 compared to 2006. So far in the first six months of FY2009 we are 26% ahead of our FY2008 pace in cell phones found.

These efforts have dramatically reduced the number of overall serious assaults by inmates on staff (defined as cases requiring more than basic first aid) in the DOC. From 2006 to 2008 they have dropped 32%. Serious weapons assaults are down 75% over the same time period.



In the DPDS there have not been any serious weapons assaults by detainees on staff in the past two years. Serious physical assaults on staff have been cut by 71% from FY2006 to FY2008. And there haven't been any in the first eight months of FY2009.

Over the same period of time, serious physical assaults by detainees on detainees dropped 18% and serious weapons assaults by 52%.

Much of safety progress made by DPDS in the last two years is attributable to a sophisticated and randomly targeted shake-down effort implemented during 2008. This led to 642 cell phone interdictions in 2008 compared to just 189 the year before.



DOC Intelligence Efforts and Use of Technology

In 2008 DPSCS was awarded \$260,000 in grant funds from GOCCP which is being used to:

- Provide salary for a criminal analyst
- Build a database to facilitate the gathering, analysis and dissemination of gang related intelligence

Through these intelligence efforts the DOC has increased the number of known validated gang members throughout the system by 24% from 2007 to 2008. And 84% since 2006.

This year DPSCS has received additional grant funds to build upon these successes. The additional funding will allow the DPSCS to invest in:

- Additional gang software to boost our intelligence gathering and sharing efforts
- One new Boss Chair – a contraband interdiction tool used by the DOC to stem the flow of contraband, specifically cell phones into the institutions
- One Cellebrite device to mine data from confiscated cell phones

DOC Investigations Keeping Staff Safe

Because of our increased efforts on contraband interdiction, and gathering intelligence on gang related activities in our institutions, the DOC has become more skilled and proactive in rooting out bad seeds, making the correctional environment safer for all staff.

The majority of our 6,400 member correctional staff is hardworking and honest. But like any large organization there are exceptions. These very few exceptions of compromised staff are a reality for DPSCS, like many other correctional systems around the country.

From 2007 through March of 2009 71 members of DOC correctional staff have been terminated because of criminal arrests, contraband or fraternization with inmates.

Based on intelligence gathered, these are a few examples of action taken against DOC employees resulting in terminations or resignations in the last year. The basis for these actions was related to either contraband or inappropriate relationships with inmates:

- Employee A – 46 years old, performance of duties/insubordination regarding contact with inmates
- Employee B – 24 years old, rejected on probation/inappropriate phone contact with inmates
- Employee C – 42 years old, telephone conversations with inmates
- Employee D – 27 years old, contraband distribution, cell phone, inappropriate contact with inmates
- Employee F – 27 years old, rejected on probation, telephone conversations with inmates



Tough Standards, Better Staff

Division of Correction efforts to root out and stem corrupt behavior among staff actually begins before they are hired. We are committed to investigating and hiring the best, most qualified candidates.

Over the last three years 68% of correctional officer applicants were rejected because they didn't pass though the DPSCS background checks and investigation process.

Going back to 2006, of the 11,555 correctional officer applicants processed, only 3,439 were actually hired.

Applicants	2006	Percent	2007	Percent	2008*	Percent
Interviewed	3800		3571		4184	
Hired	1345	35.39%	1020	28.56%	1074	25.67%
Not Selected	2455	64.61%	2551	71.44%	2899	69.29%

*211 (5.04%) applicants for the calendar year 2008 are still in process.

Of those hired since 2006 just 139 (out of the 3,439) were terminated before the end of their probationary period.

New Regulations, Better Hiring

In April 2009, the Correctional Training Commission voted to adopt new, more stringent regulations requiring agencies to include verifying gang membership into the applicant background check. Agencies would have to search criminal gang data bases – such as GangNet, RissGang – to obtain such information.

Under the new regulation the commission will have the authority to disqualify any applicant with verified gang affiliation from certification. If approved the regulatory changes will take place in September of this year (2009).