

Office of Professional Responsibility

Alexandria Staging Facility Inspection 2024-003-331

August 27–29, 2024



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Office of Detention Oversight
Special Review
2024-003-331

Enforcement and Removal Operations
ERO New Orleans Field Office

Alexandria Staging Facility
Alexandria, Louisiana

August 27-29, 2024

**SPECIAL REVIEW
of the
ALEXANDRIA STAGING FACILITY
Alexandria, Louisiana**

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SPECIAL REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS



Team Lead
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ODO
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FACILITY OVERVIEW

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) Office of Detention Oversight (ODO) conducted a special review of the Alexandria Staging Facility (ASF) in Alexandria, Louisiana, from August 27 to 29, 2024.¹ The facility opened in 2014 and is owned and operated by The GEO Group, Inc. (GEO). The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at ASF in 2014 under the oversight of ERO’s Field Office Director in New Orleans (ERO New Orleans). The facility operates under the Performance-Based National Detention Standards (PBNDS) 2011 (Revised 2016).

[REDACTED] A project administrator handles daily facility operations and manages [REDACTED] support personnel. GEO provides food services and ICE Health Service Corps provides medical care. The facility does not hold any accreditations from any outside entities. In June 2018, ASF was audited for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and was DHS PREA certified.

Capacity and Population Statistics	Quantity
ICE Bed Capacity ²	[REDACTED]
Average ICE Population ³	[REDACTED]
Adult Male Population (as of August 27, 2024)	[REDACTED]
Adult Female Population (as of August 27, 2024)	[REDACTED]

During its rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 7 deficiencies in the following areas: Environmental Health and Safety (1); Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities (2); Use of Force and Restraints Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities (3); and Detainee Handbook (1).

¹ This facility holds male detainees with low, medium-low, medium-high and high security classification levels for periods less than 72 hours.

² Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of August 27, 2024.

³ *Ibid.*

SPECIAL REVIEW PROCESS

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population of 10 or more, and where detainees are housed for over 72 hours, to assess compliance with ICE national detention standards. While these inspections focus on facility compliance with detention standards that directly affect detainee life, health, safety, and/or well-being, in FY 2024 ODO added additional standards to the scope of each full inspection to ensure ODO inspects every standard at each facility at least once every other year.⁴

ODO identifies violations of ICE detention standards, ICE policies, or operational procedures, as “deficiencies.” ODO highlights instances when the facility resolves deficiencies prior to completion of the ODO inspection. Where applicable, these corrective actions are annotated with “C” under the *Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report.

In FY 2022, ODO began conducting special reviews of under 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 or more detainees and over 72-hour ICE detention facilities with an ADP of 1 to 9 detainees. Additionally, ODO began conducting unannounced inspections of ICE detention facilities, regardless of ADP of detainees, as well as reviews of ICE special/emerging detention facilities/programs. As such, these facility inspections will result in an ODO Inspection Compliance Rating; however, for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, those ratings will be for ERO’s informational purposes. ODO will conduct a complete review of several core standards, in accordance with the facility’s contractually required ICE NDS or in accordance with the ICE NDS listed in the current ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List for facilities that are not contractually obligated to an ICE NDS, which may include but are not limited to Medical Care/Health Care, Medical Care (Women)/Health Care (Females), Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention, Hunger Strikes, Food Service, Environmental Health and Safety, Special Management Units (SMU) or Hold Rooms (if the facility does not have an SMU), Use of Force and Restraints/Use of Physical Control Measures, and Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention.

Upon completion of each special review or unannounced inspection, ODO conducts a closeout briefing with facility and local ERO officials to discuss preliminary findings. A summary of these findings is shared with ERO management officials. Thereafter, ODO provides ICE leadership with a final compliance inspection report to: (i) assist ERO in developing and initiating uniform corrective action plans (UCAPs); and (ii) provide senior executives with an independent assessment of facility operations. ODO’s findings inform ICE executive management in their decision-making to better allocate resources across the agency’s entire detention inventory.

⁴ ODO reviews the facility’s compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

FINDINGS BY PERFORMANCE-BASED NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2011 (REVISED 2016) MAJOR CATEGORIES

PBNDs 2011 (Revised 2016) Standards Inspected ^{5,6,7}	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Hold Rooms in Detention Facilities	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Use of Force and Restraints	2
Sub-Total	2
Part 4 - Care	
Food Service	0
Hunger Strikes	0
Medical Care	0
Personal Hygiene	0
Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Detainee Handbook	0
Sub-Total	0
Total Deficiencies	2

⁵ For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Special Review Findings* section of this report.

⁶ Beginning in FY 2024, ODO instituted a process of rotating all standards every other year. As a result, some standards may not be present in all inspections.

⁷ During a special review, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards.

DETAINEE RELATIONS

ODO interviewed 20 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. The remaining detainees declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All 20 detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

SPECIAL REVIEW FINDINGS

SECURITY

USE OF FORCE AND RESTRAINTS (UOFR)

ODO reviewed five immediate UOFR files and found in one out of five files, officers involved in the UOFR incident completed their incident reports 1 to 2 days following the UOFR (**Deficiency UOFR-63⁸**).

ODO reviewed one calculated use of force audiovisual recording and found the team lead did not state the name of the facility, time, nor date of the UOFR. Additionally, the recording did not include an introduction of medical staff, three out of five extraction team members did not state their titles, and all five extraction team members wore their helmets during their introduction (**Deficiency UOFR-73¹⁰**).

CONCLUSION

During this special review, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 10 standards under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016) and found the facility in compliance with 9 of those standards. ODO found two deficiencies in the remaining one standard. Since ASF's last special review in September 2023, the facility's compliance with detention standards has trended upward; however, this was ASF's first inspection under PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016). ASF went from 4 deficient standards and 7 deficiencies in September 2023 to 1 deficient standard and 3 deficiencies during this most recent special review. ODO has not received a completed UCAP from its last inspection of ASF. ODO recommends ERO New Orleans work with the facility to resolve the remaining deficiencies in accordance with contractual obligations.

⁸ "A written report shall be provided to the shift supervisor by each officer involved in the use of force by the end of the officer's shift." See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Use of Force and Restraints, Section (V)(H)(4)

⁹ "Documenting, reporting, and investigating use-of-force incidents helps prevent unwarranted use of force and protects staff from unfounded allegations of improper or excessive use of force." See ICE PBNDS 2011 (Revised 2016), Standard, Use of Force and Restraints, Section (V)(B)(14).

¹⁰ "Calculated use-of-force incidents shall be audio visually recorded in the following order:

- a. Introduction by team leader stating facility name, location, time, date, etc., describing the incident that led to the calculated use of force, and naming the audiovisual camera operator and other staff present.
- b. Faces of all team members shall briefly appear (with helmets removed and heads uncovered), one at a time, identified by name and title."

See ICE PBNDS 2011(Revised 2016), Standard, Use of Force and Restraints, Section (V)(I)(2)(a-f).

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Special Review (PBNDS 2011) (2013 Errata)	FY 2024 Special Review (PBNDS 2011) (Revised 2016)
Standards Reviewed	10	10
Deficient Standards	4	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	7	2
Priority Component Deficiencies	0	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	1	0
Corrective Actions	0	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior



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