

U.S. Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility ICE Inspections Washington, DC 20536-5501

## Office of Detention Oversight Unannounced Compliance Inspection 2024-004-380

# Enforcement and Removal Operations ERO San Diego Field Office

San Luis Regional Detention Center San Luis, Arizona

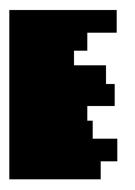
April 23-25, 2024

#### UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION of the SAN LUIS REGIONAL DETENTION CENTER San Luis, Arizona

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## **COMPLIANCE INSPECTION TEAM MEMBERS**



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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 an unannounced compliance inspection of the San Luis Regional Detention Center (SLRDC) in San Luis, Arizona, from April 23 to 25, 2024.<sup>1</sup> The facility opened in 2007 and is owned by the City of San Luis and operated by LaSalle Corrections. The ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) began housing detainees at SLRDC in 2011 under the oversight of ERO's Field Office Director in San Diego (ERO San Diego). The facility operates under the National Detention Standards (NDS) 2019.

A warden handles daily facility operations and manages support personnel. LaSalle Corrections provides food services, medical care, and commissary services at the facility. In February 2023, SLRDC 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. <sup>2</sup>		
Average ICE Population. <sup>3</sup>		
Adult Male Population (as of April 23, 2024)		
Adult Female Population (as of April 23, 2024)	-	

During its last rated inspection, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, ODO found 5 deficiencies in the following areas: Disability Identification, Assessment, and Accommodation (1); Medical Care (2); Significant Self-harm and Suicide Prevention and Intervention (1); and Staff-Detainee Communication (1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This facility holds male and female detainees with low and medium-low security classification levels for periods greater than 72 hours.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data Source: ERO Custody Management Division Authorized Facility List as of April 15, 2024. <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* 

## **UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION PROCESS**

ODO conducts oversight inspections of ICE detention facilities with an average daily population (ADP) 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> ODO reviews the facility's compliance with selected standards in their entirety.

## FINDINGS BY NATIONAL DETENTION STANDARDS 2019 MAJOR CATEGORIES

NDS 2019 Standards Inspected 5,6,7	Deficiencies
Part 1 - Safety	
Environmental Health and Safety	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 2 - Security	
Admission and Release	0
Custody Classification System	0
Facility Security and Control	0
Funds and Personal Property	0
Post Orders	0
Searches of Detainees	0
Use of Force and Restraints	0
Special Management Units	0
Staff-Detainee Communication	0
Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention	0
Sub-Total	0
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 5 - Activities	
Correspondence and Other Mail	0
Religious Practices	0
Telephone Access	0
Voluntary Work Program	0
Sub-Total	0
Part 6 - Justice	
Grievance System	0
Law Libraries and Legal Material	0
Sub-Total	0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> For greater detail on ODO's findings, see the *Unannounced Compliance Inspection Findings* section of this report. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> During an unannounced inspection, ODO will review a facility's compliance with at least 10 individual standards; however, unannounced full inspections will include a review of the same standards as announced full inspections.

Part 7 - Administration and Management	
Detention Files	0
Detainee Transfers	1
Sub-Total	1
Total Deficiencies	1

### **DETAINEE RELATIONS**

ODO interviewed 18 detainees, who each voluntarily agreed to participate. The remaining seven detainees declined ODO's request for an interview. None of the detainees made allegations of discrimination, mistreatment, or abuse. All detainees reported satisfaction with facility services.

#### UNANNOUNCED COMPLIANCE INSPECTION FINDINGS

#### ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

#### DETAINEE TRANSFERS (DT)

ODO interviewed ERO San Diego staff and found the staff does not provide the detainees with written notification of the name, address, nor telephone number of the receiving facility at the time of transfer (**Deficiency DT-6**.<sup>8</sup>).

#### CONCLUSION

During this unannounced compliance inspection, ODO assessed the facility's compliance with 24 standards under NDS 2019 and found the facility in compliance with 23 of those standards. ODO found one deficiency in the remaining standard. Since SLRDC's last full inspection in November 2022, the facility's overall compliance has trended upward. SLRDC went from 4 deficient standards and 5 deficiencies in November 2022 to 1 deficient standard and 1 deficiency during this most recent inspection. The facility's high-level of compliance is likely the result of completing a UCAP for ODO's last rated inspection of SLRDC that occurred in November 2022. ODO recommends ERO San Diego continue to work with the facility to resolve the remaining deficiency in accordance with contractual obligations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "At the time of the transfer, ICE/ERO will provide the detainee, in writing, with the name, address and telephone number of the facility he or she is being transferred to and contact the attorney of record." *See* ICE NDS 2019, Standard, Detainee Transfers, Section (II)(A)(1).

Compliance Inspection Results Compared	FY 2023 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)	FY 2024 Full Inspection (NDS 2019)
Standards Reviewed	20	24
Deficient Standards	4	1
Overall Number of Deficiencies	5	1
Priority Component Deficiencies	1	0
Repeat Deficiencies	0	0
Areas Of Concern	0	0
Corrective Actions	1	0
Facility Rating	Superior	Superior