

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Bureau of Internal Oversight
Audits and Inspections Unit



October 2024 Custody Facility and Property Inspection
Inspection # BI2024-0154

The Audits and Inspections Unit (AIU) of the Sheriff's Office Bureau of Internal Oversight (BIO) will conduct Custody Bureau Facility and Property Inspections on a bimonthly basis. The purpose of this inspection is to ensure compliance with Office Policies and to promote proper handling of Property and Evidence. To achieve this, inspectors will select for an on-site inspection, one of the MCSO facilities/divisions and conduct an inspection using the *Custody Bureau Facility and Property Inspection Matrix* developed by the AIU.

Matrix Procedures:

Because of the size and complexity of the various facilities and other divisions, for larger facilities, the inspectors may randomly select up to five areas of the selected facility or division for inspection. On the day of the inspection, using the "Omnigo" Property and Evidence tracking system, a current printout of all outstanding Property and Evidence records for the facility/division being inspected will be obtained.

Criteria:

CP-6, *Blood Borne Pathogens*
DA-1, *Emergency Procedures for Custody Bureau Facilities*
DA-2, *Inspection and Testing of Emergency Equipment*
DB-1, *Inmate Custody Records and Files*
DB-2, *Shift Logs and Hardbound Logbooks*
DB-3, *Custody Facility Security Surveillance Systems*
DG-3, *4th Avenue Jail Safety and Sanitation*
DG-4, *Kitchen Security and Knife-Utensil Control*
DH-2, *Control Rooms and Security Equipment*
DH-5, *Custody Key Control*
DH-6, *Inmates Supervision, Security Walks, and Headcounts*
DL-2, *Custody Bureau Facility Inspections*
DL-3, *Inmate Hygiene*
GA-3, *Division Operations Manual*
GB-2, *Command Responsibility*
GD-1, *General Office Procedures*
GD-4, *Use of Tobacco Products*
GD-15, *Emergency Evacuation Plans*
GE-3, *Property Management and Evidence Control*
GE-4, *Use, Assignment, and Operation of Vehicles*
GF-3, *Criminal History Record Information and Public Records*
GM-1, *Electronic Communications, Data and Voice Mail*

Conditions:

On October 30, 2024, a Facility and Property inspection was conducted for the Lower Buckeye Jail (LBJ). The Lower Buckeye Jail is located at 3250 W. Lower Buckeye Road, Phoenix AZ 85009. The LBJ is the largest Detention Facility in the state of Arizona and houses a variety of Non-Sentenced Minimum and Medium General Population, Sentences Working Inmates, as well as all classifications of Remanded Juveniles, Administrative Restricted, and Nature of Charges inmates. There are two inmate living area options; four Dormitories, each housing up to 102 inmates and 12 Pod-based housing units, each housing up to 142 inmates.

The LBJ is currently staffed by 148 detention officers, 4 Field Training Officers, 2 civilian employees, and 32 supervisors (Sergeants, Lieutenants, and Captain).

Upon arrival at the LBJ command section, the AIU inspection team was met by the division Executive Lieutenant and were escorted into a conference room for the initial in-brief. Present for the in-brief, representing the division, was the Division Commander, the Executive Lieutenant, as well as other staff that would act as our escorts during the inspection. A short brief was conducted where the inspection process was explained. After the in-brief, the inspection team and escorts commenced the inspection of the selected areas. After the inspection was completed, an informal briefing was conducted where the inspectors briefed their findings and observations. A summary of the inspection findings and observations follows:

Section 1 Administration/Supervision:

The escorting personnel, as well as other staff on duty, expeditiously provided every available document, answered all questions posed, and indicated where files, documents, and records were stored. It should be noted that the LBJ has a comprehensive Facility and Safety equipment inspection. During the preparation process for this inspection, the division determined that the filing and documenting of the division's Facility Inspection program needed to be modified to ensure full compliance with applicable directives. This process was initiated prior to the AIU's inspection team arrival. Additional guidance was provided to responsible staff of the requirements included in MCSO Policies DL-2, DA-2, and DH-5. It should also be noted that during the inspection of the Key Control Officer records, the inspectors determined that the records maintained met or exceeded all the inspection requirements and these records were being maintained in an effective, efficient and professional manner.

The Lower Buckeye Jail is in full compliance with the inspection requirements for this section.

Section 2 Facility and Operations:

Because of the size of LBJ, prior to arrival at the facility and in accordance with the inspection methodology, the lead inspector randomly selected five areas of the jail to be physically inspected. The selected areas were thoroughly inspected in person by the inspection team.

The facility was clean and presented a professional work environment. All doors were secured and our movement throughout the jail was restricted by locked doors that required access from the LBJ Security Control or through key access from our escorts. The Officers on duty were professional in their demeanor. They were courteous and patient as they answered all questions and facilitated access to the secure spaces within their control. This was done without compromising their duty of providing for the safety and wellbeing of inmates, officers, medical staff, and inspectors.

During the inspection team's movement throughout the facility, we had the opportunity to observe employees and inmates in the various areas that were visited. The inmates were courteous to escorting staff and inspection team members. Employees on duty clearly communicated control of their charges in a calm, courteous, and professional manner.

In addition to the inspection of the physical plant, a review of certain required electronic recordkeeping entries was also performed as part of the inspection. During the review of these electronic records, the inspector observed minor inconsistencies in the way entries are being made. These observations were discussed with command staff during the briefing after the inspection was completed. Command staff were receptive to possible avenues to reduce and/or eliminate these inconsistencies.

The Lower Buckeye Jail is in full compliance with the inspection requirements for this section.

Section 3 Property and Evidence:

In the morning of the inspection, the AIU reviewed the Property and Evidence database (OMNIGO) to determine if the division had any property that was pending transfer to the Property Management Division. The database showed that there was no pending property. The inspection team confirmed this observation when the property room was physically inspected. Additionally, the inspection team reviewed the division’s processes for impounding Property and Evidence. The inspectors found the staff to be knowledgeable of their duties and obligations and the division’s property room is secure and well stocked with the necessary supplies. Additionally, the division has developed a well-organized and controlled process for safekeeping the property of those inmates who, because of various reasons, are temporarily unable to maintain their property in their possession.

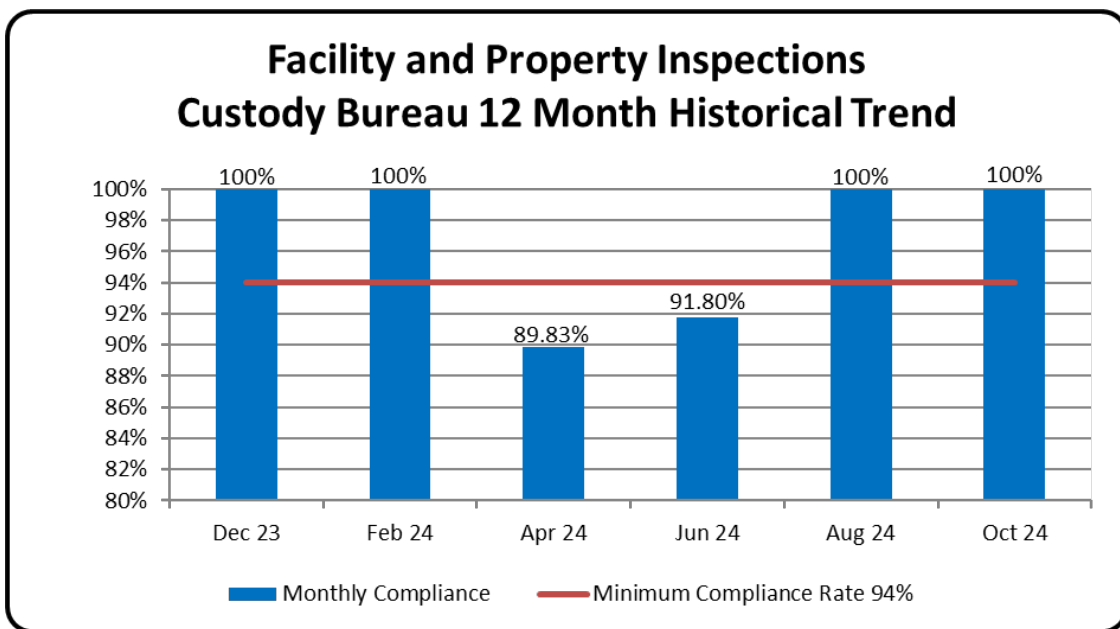
The Lower Buckeye Jail is in full compliance with the inspection requirements for this section.

Additional Observations:

Throughout the visit, the inspectors were granted full access to all office spaces, storage rooms, filing cabinets, desk drawers, and any other containers found. It should also be noted that all officers observed were in appropriate uniform, presented a professional appearance, and when interacting with the inspection team, were professional, accommodating, and patiently courteous in their responses and demeanor.

During the inspection, no evidence was discovered indicating that MCSO equipment was being used in a manner that discriminates or denigrates anyone on the basis of race, color, nationality/national origin, immigration status, age, religious beliefs/religion, gender, culture/cultural group, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, veteran status, ancestry, physical or mental disability, ethnic background, or socioeconomic status, or that property and/or evidence was being mishandled.

Below is the 12-month historical comparison of compliance rates for the Custody Facility and Property inspections.



Action Required:

Inspection *BI2024-0154* resulted in **100%** overall compliance with **No** *BIO Action* forms requested.

Notes:

All supporting documentation (working papers) is included in the inspection file number *BI2024-0154* and contained within IA Pro.

Date Inspection Started: October 23, 2024
Date Completed: October 30, 2024
Timeframe Inspected: October 23 to October 30, 2024
Assigned Inspector: Sr. Auditor M. Rodriguez A9047

I have reviewed this inspection report.

Capt. Dominick Reaulo

11/12/2024

Captain D. Reaulo S1678
Division Commander
Bureau of Internal Oversight

Date