



Issue Brief

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Security Threat Management

Overview

To assist in the safety and security in Oregon's prisons, the Department of Corrections (DOC) uses the Security Threat Management (STM) Unit in the Office of the Inspector General. STM has three primary functions: high alert inmate management, department-wide intelligence gathering, and investigative support to superintendents during major incidents.

In years past, DOC focused on managing Security Threat Groups (STGs), otherwise known as gangs. Under the STG model, staff assessed and managed gang members, regardless of behavior, while often overlooking non-gang inmates with behavioral issues.

The STM model focuses on managing all inmates equally until staff gain intelligence or observe misconduct that leads them to believe an inmate is a viable threat to staff or inmates, and/or to the safety, security, and orderly operations of DOC facilities. Under the STM model, all staff members gather intelligence and work together to identify high alert inmates.

High Alert Status

If an inmate is found guilty of at least one of the following conduct violations, the department can designate the inmate as high alert and place him/her on an STM caseload:

- Arson/Explosive Device
- Distribution (the transfer of contraband from one person to another)
- Escape
- Hostage Taking
- Inmate Assault
- Staff Assault
- Possession of a weapon

The department can also designate an inmate as high alert if he/she is an interstate transfer to Oregon; has been identified as sexually aggressive; has engaged in an inappropriate inmate/staff relationship; or has displayed other high risk behavior.

In addition, any DOC staff member can alert STM staff if they feel an inmate needs elevated, proactive management. If institution staff and STM lieutenants validate the inmate's security threat activity through intelligence gathering, they can place the inmate on high alert status.

There are currently just under 900 high alert inmates assigned to the STM Unit.

Inmate Management Plans

The department assigns high alert inmates to an STM caseload. DOC has six STM lieutenants located across the state who track the inmates' behavior and progress. STM lieutenants work in partnership with institution staff to formulate Inmate Management Plans (IMP) for each STM inmate. IMPs are behavior and incentive based.

In situations where the inmate is non-compliant with the IMP, the STM lieutenant works with institution staff (security, counselors, etc.), and can place restrictions on the inmate, while working in conjunction with the institution to bring the inmate into compliance. Some examples of possible restrictions include limits on yard time, canteen purchases, phone use, and visiting.

Outcomes

In 2013, DOC began quarterly target reviews to measure outcomes across the agency. There are two outcome measures related to STM:

- STM Caseload Reduction – The percent of custody level 3 and 4/high alert inmates who move from high alert to either moderate alert or alert status, or to custody level 1 or 2.
- STM Caseload Recidivism – The percent of custody level 3 and 4/high alert inmates who move to either moderate alert or alert status and back to high alert status within one year.

The latest data available is for the period of October 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. Those outcomes are:

- Prison Management Alert System (PMAS) Caseload Reduction = 14.7%
- PMAS Recidivism Within 1 Year = 10.6%

In addition to these measures, the Inspector General also tracks staff assaults and inmate assaults involving STM inmates. The latest data show that from 2012 to 2013:

- Staff assaults are down 20%
- Inmate assaults are down 8%

Additional information on STM-involved assaults is provided in the charts below.

Year	Staff Assault	Recommit Staff Assault	Inmate Assault	Recommit Inmate Assault
2012	69	5	74	0
2013	55	9	68	0

Year	Extortion	Recommit Extortion	Distribution	Recommit Distribution
2012	89	1	22	1
2013	108	6	45	1

Conclusion

DOC staff members play a central role in the success of the STM program. All DOC staff work together by providing intelligence, monitoring inmate behavior, and assisting in managing high alert inmates. This department-wide team approach helps ensure safer institutions for staff and inmates and supports the department’s mission and commitment to the Oregon Accountability Model.

**The mission of the
Oregon Department of Corrections
is to promote public safety by holding
offenders accountable for their actions
and reducing the risk of future
criminal behavior.**



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