

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
DELTA FIRE CAMP
2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury**

Reason for Inspection

California Penal Code §919 subsection (b) provides: "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." Pursuant to the statute, the 2006-2007 Grand Jury inspected the Delta Fire Camp.

Grand Jury Actions

- Inspected and toured the fire camp
- Interviewed management and staff

Background / Summary

The Delta Fire Camp (Camp) was established in 1998 and is located on 23 acres in rural Solano County at 6242 Lambie Road. The Camp is a collaborative effort between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the California Department of Forestry (CDF). The Camp is one of 41 in the state. It is an adult male only facility. The inmates are classified as a minimum security risk. The capacity is 120. CDCR will allow 10 percent overpopulation at any given time.

The main cross-street to the Camp is Highway 12. There is no left turn lane from or onto Highway 12 from Lambie Road. This is a major safety concern for CDF fire trucks and Highway 12 traffic.

To be considered for the Camp Program, an inmate must satisfy better than average mental and physical requirements. Because of the relative freedom and better pay, the Program is highly desired.

The average inmate stay is eight to twelve months. Eighty-five percent of the inmates work on fire duties, disaster relief, brush removal and creek clearing. The other 15 percent perform other duties such as: clerical support, cooking, laundry and sign making. Inmates are paid \$1.45 per day. When performing fire fighting duties, they are paid \$1 per hour. Inmates receive two days off of their sentence for each day served in this Program. Upon completion of training, inmates are either fully certified in firefighting or have received training in other vocational skills.

There are 28 staff members at the camp. This includes 17 from CDF and 11 from CDCR. There is one battalion chief who leads the fire staff and one captain who leads the correctional staff. A fire crew consists of 17 inmates, one CDF Fire Captain and one CDCR correctional officer. There are six crews. Crews are housed with their own members in barracks.

The Camp provides an on-site, multi-day conjugal and family visitation program which includes a cottage furnished with donated items from concerned individuals and groups. CDCR provides no funding to maintain this program. In addition, there are substance abuse programs, a craft shop and an exercise room.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1 - Turning onto and off Highway 12 from Lambie Road can be dangerous.

Recommendation 1 - The Solano County Transportation Authority and the California Department of Transportation should make safety at this location a high priority when planning the future of Highway 12.

Comments

The Delta Fire Camp appears to be well managed by both the California Department of Forestry and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The Camp provides a positive alternative placement program for incarcerated inmates. The Camp Program develops camaraderie and teamwork among the inmates that helps them adjust for life outside the camp. The inmates also develop self-esteem by learning a skill and helping the community.

Affected Agency

- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- California Department of Forestry
- Solano Transportation Authority

Courtesy Copy

- California State Assemblywoman Lois Wolk
- Solano County Supervisor, Michael Reagan
- California Department of Transportation