

# **District of Columbia Corrections Information Council**

## **Inspection Report**

### **FCI Victorville Medium I**

January 7, 2015



## **District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC)**

Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member  
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### ***About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council***

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where inmates from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the FBOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints does not provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC.

Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of inmates, corrections staff not in leadership and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

### **DC Corrections Information Council**

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# **FCI Victorville Medium I**

**Adelanto, California**

**Date of Inspection: May 2, 2014**

**2,594 Miles from DC: 38 Hours by Car / 63 Hours by Bus**

**On May 2, 2014, the CIC was unable to complete its scheduled inspection of FCI Victorville Medium I because FCC Warden Richard Ives terminated the inspection prior to its completion. As a result, the CIC was prevented from fulfilling its congressional and DC mandates to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement at Federal Bureau of Prison (FBOP) facilities incarcerating DC residents, as provided under the Revitalization Act of 1997<sup>1</sup> and D.C. Code § 24-101.01,<sup>2</sup> and agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CIC and the FBOP for access to FBOP facilities.<sup>3</sup>**

Prior to the date of inspection, the CIC followed the protocol provided in the MOU to request the inspection of FCI Victorville Medium I. The CIC submitted its request for an institutional inspection at FCI Victorville Medium I, along with the other two facilities at the Federal Correctional Complex at FCC Victorville that incarcerate DC inmates. The CIC requested that the FCI Victorville Medium I inspection take place on May 2, 2014, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition, the CIC provided the FBOP with the following documents and information that are typically included in inspection requests:

- An itinerary that included the areas requested to be toured and inspected;
- A request to speak with staff in those areas;
- Notification that the CIC would be sending letters to each DC inmate to offer them the opportunity to speak with the CIC through confidential interviews;
- A copy of the letter that would be sent to DC inmates; and
- Notification that the CIC would stay at the facility until the inspection was complete, including all interviews, or that the CIC would be available on a follow-up date for completion of the on-site inspection.

All of these items were requested in accordance with the provisions of the MOU.

Pursuant to the inspection request process provided in the MOU, the CIC followed the same inspection request process that it had utilized in the past, and subsequently received confirmation from the FBOP Central Office for the date and time of the requested inspections. The CIC inspected USP Victorville on April 30 and FCI Victorville Medium II on May 1. On May 2, the CIC arrived at FCI Victorville Medium I and began the inspection at 9:00 AM with an opening session with the FCC Warden, the Medium I Warden, and his executive staff. The CIC fully expected to conduct the inspection as planned. The CIC toured the facility from approximately 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM, at which time the CIC was abruptly informed that a closeout session

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<sup>1</sup> National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997 (Revitalization Act), Pub. L. No. 105-33, title XI, 111 Stat. 712 (1997), *available at* <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-105publ33/content-detail.html>.

<sup>2</sup> D.C. CODE § 24-101.01 (2011).

<sup>3</sup> Memorandum of Understanding Between Fed. Bureau of Prisons and D.C. Corr. Info. Council, Bureau of Prisons' Procedures to Facilitate District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) Announced Inspections (July 1, 2013).

with FCC Warden Ives was scheduled to begin immediately. At this time, the Executive Assistant stated that the CIC would be able to complete its inspection as well as the three scheduled interviews with DC inmates upon conclusion of the closeout session. However, during the closeout session, Warden Ives informed the CIC that the inspection was over and there would be no further opportunity to tour the facility or interview inmates.

The CIC is dedicated to completing its mandate, however, the CIC requires the cooperation of the wardens and executive staff at the facilities being inspected. Prior to the inspections at FCC Victorville, the CIC had successfully completed inspections of 13 FBOP facilities. The CIC is appreciative of its positive working relationship with the FBOP Central Office and the cooperation of the wardens and staff at those facilities. The inspection of FCI Victorville Medium I is the first time the CIC was forced to leave a facility prior to fully completing its inspection. The CIC inspectors traveled over 2,500 miles from DC to inspect the facilities at FCC Victorville in California, and it was imperative that they be able to complete all of the scheduled inspections during the trip.

The CIC experienced a level of unprofessionalism and lack of transparency that was both surprising and disappointing. The decision of Warden Ives to prematurely discontinue the inspection raised concerns regarding the conditions of confinement at the facility. The inability of the inspectors to complete the inspection and conduct confidential interviews with DC inmates at the facility was unacceptable. The CIC has expressed its concerns directly to the FBOP in hopes that this type of situation will not occur again.

After the truncated inspection, the CIC was in communication with the inmates it was unable to interview via legal mail. However, due to the incomplete nature of the inspection and the inability of the inspectors to speak with DC inmates at the facility, the CIC is unable to issue a full report on the conditions of confinement at FCI Victorville Medium I.

After the CIC inspection process was completed, the CIC provided the FBOP with a draft version of the FCI Victorville Medium I inspection report for review of factual information. The FBOP provided the following response:

The Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) recognizes the value of the Corrections Information Council inspections of its facilities and the voice it provides the D.C. Superior Court offenders. We hope to continue working closely to improve Bureau facilities and raise awareness with regard to these offender's needs. . . .

As you are aware, a miscommunication resulted in the inspection being completed at noon rather than 5:00 p.m. on the final day. The Warden welcomes the return of the CIC to conduct a full inspection of FCI I and to interview D.C. inmates.

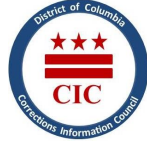
The CIC appreciates the response of the FBOP, although the CIC recommends that the FBOP ensure that internal miscommunications do not negatively impact the CIC inspection process when it is conducted pursuant to the signed MOU.

Demographics		
Facility Population		
Total inmates	1,557	
DC inmates <sup>4</sup>	6	
Inmates sentenced under federal U.S. Code by the DC District Court	5	
Rated capacity	1,152	
Percent of capacity	135%	
Race		
(1,557 inmates with data available)		
	Number of Inmates	Percentage of Population
Black	347	22.3 %
White	1,123	72.1 %
Other	87	5.6%
Ethnicity		
(1,557 inmates with data available)		
	Number of Inmates	Percentage of Population
Hispanic	932	59.9 %
Non-Hispanic	625	40.1 %
Sentence Information		
(1,519 inmates with data available)		
Mean sentence	108.1 months	
Median sentence	70.0 months	
Mean time remaining (new law / old law)	53.8 / 155.1 months	
Median time remaining (new law / old law)	26.0 / 48.0 months	
Offense Information		
(1,553 inmates with data available)		
	Number of Inmates	Percentage of Population
Violent offenders <sup>5</sup>	573	36.9%
Drug offenders	165	10.6%
Sex offenders	33	2.1%
Months Remaining to Release		
(1,557 inmates with data available)		
	Number of Inmates	Percentage of Population
4 months or less	236	15.5%
5-8 months	132	8.7%
9-12 months	120	7.9%
13-24 months	247	16.3%
25-60 months	340	22.4%
61-120 months	273	18.0%
121 months or more	171	11.3%
Security Classifications		
(1,557 inmates with data available)		
	Number of Inmates	Percentage of Population
Minimum	11	0.7%
Low	80	5.1%
Medium	1,460	93.8%
High	6	0.4%

Source: Federal Bureau of Prisons. Statistics dated February 2014

<sup>4</sup> The phrase “DC inmates” refers to inmates at the facility who are sentenced under the DC Code by the DC Superior Court.

<sup>5</sup> For the purposes of violent offenders, inmates with the following offense categories are included: Weapons, Explosives, Arson, Homicide, Aggravated Assault, and Kidnapping.



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This report is available in portable  
document format at the CIC World

Wide Web Internet site:

**<http://www.cic.dc.gov/>**