



## SECURITY THREAT GROUPS

### POLICY.

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ) to recognize and effectively manage individuals or groups that pose a significant threat to the safety and security of the AJ.

### PURPOSE.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for members to follow regarding the proper identification and intelligence gathering of known or unknown security threat groups or individuals.

### OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- C-104 Function of Classification

### REFERENCES:

- DCAJ Policy [CD-3-2 Public Information Records Requests](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-5-1 Intake and Booking](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-6-3 Rules and Discipline](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-6-4 Inmate Classification](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-12-1 Inmate Mail](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-12-2 Inmate Visiting Control](#)

### DEFINITIONS:

**Criminal Gang.** An association of three or more individuals who collectively identify themselves by adopting a group identity. The association uses their group identity to create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation. The association frequently employs one or more of the following: a common name, slogan, identifying sign, symbol, tattoo or other physical marking, style or color of clothing, hairstyle, hand sign or graffiti. The purpose of a gang, in part, is to engage in criminal activity and use violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives.

**Department of Justice (DOJ):** An intelligence gathering branch of the federal or state government.

**Gang Sign:** Graffiti or drawings of a nature that identifies specific symbols of gang influence or activity. Hand gestures, stance, coded hand signals, writings or verbalization of coded messages or responses.

**Inmate.** A person, whether sentenced or not, in the lawful custody of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ).

**Intelligence:** Information gathered through the review of documentation, interviews, signs or symbols that support a conclusion of facts. This could include tattoos, flags, gang signs or colors.

**Security Threat Group.** Any group of two or more individuals who:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]

**PROCEDURES.**

**SECTION A: GENERAL GUIDELINES**

- A-1.** Inmates (or remanded persons) will be processed into the facility as outlined in AJ Policy [\*CD-5-1 Intake and Booking\*](#). Deputies will use knowledge gained through evaluation of [REDACTED] to determine whether the inmate is affiliated with known gangs or security threat groups. In addition, the deputy should:
- a. Document their observations in the jail computerized management system (JMS).
  - b. Gather information from arresting Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs).
  - c. Photograph any gang related tattoos.
  - d. Ask the inmate about gang affiliations.
  - e. Add appropriate cautions in the warning screens in the JMS.
  - f. If the inmate is identified as a gang member, make an attachment in JMS and notify a shift supervisor.
- A-2.** Inmates identified with gang or security threat designators will be classified and housed as any other inmate after:
- a. A careful examination of criminal history.
  - b. All keep-away information has been gathered.
  - c. Members have determined the housing placement is safe and appropriate.

- A-3.** During inmate orientation, the Classifications Specialist will advise the inmate that gang signs and graffiti will not be tolerated. Coded hand signals will be considered disruptive to the orderly operations of the facility and graffiti will be considered destruction of property (which may be charged criminally), as outlined in the Inmate Manual and Policy [CD-6-3, Rules and Discipline.](#)

***SECTION B: CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA***

- B-1.** Inmates identified as gang members or part of a security threat group will be classified as any other inmate as stated in AJ Policy [CD 6-4, INMATE CLASSIFICATION,](#) and:
- a. All gathered information will be forwarded to the Classifications Specialist for review prior to the classification interview.
  - b. The housing assignment will be based on established policy guidelines.
  - c. Housing assignments decisions will be based on facts and whether there is a threat to the facility or members.
- B-2.** The Classification Specialist will calculate the classification level and communicate the housing decision to the shift supervisor for review.
- B-3.** Members will segregate inmates who pose a risk to the safety and security of the jail from general population inmates. Members will flag the inmate as high-risk if the inmate is or has any of the following factors:
- a. Is an escape risk.
  - b. Is assaultive against members or other inmates.
  - c. Has a severe behavioral or mental health problem.
  - d. Is noncompliant.
  - e. Has a history of disciplinary problems.
  - f. Is a suicide risk.
  - g. Is engaging in security threat behavior

***SECTION C: COMMUNICATION***

- C-1.** Information gathered on an inmate that designates gang affiliation or security threat group activity may be shared with the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Detective Division. The designated detective may attend monthly meetings with the Department of Justice and represent gathered facts. The designated detective may share intelligence with a lieutenant for information dissemination to jail deputies and the Classification Specialist for planning purposes and:
- a. The Classification Specialist and supervisors will use intelligence information for keep-away decisions.
  - b. Communicate any new developments in security threats and gang activity through the chain of command.
  - c. Make housing decisions that enhance safety and security of inmates and members.

- C-2.** The Corrections Captain may assign specific jail deputies to attend meetings held by the Department of Justice and the Detective Division. Deputies may keep a notebook of information gathered in the booking room at the jail and:
- Take notes and keep current records of security threat groups and gang activity.
  - Share gathered information with the Detective Division.
  - Share information with their supervisors for relevant information passing to members.
  - Maintain a current listing of known gang members.
  - Maintain a current listing of nicknames and monikers.
  - Maintain a photographic library of tags and graffiti.
  - Maintain a current list of coded gang messages.
- C-3.** Information gathered will be classified intelligence and law enforcement sensitive, and will not be shared outside the Sheriff's Office without prior authorization of the Corrections Captain as stated in AJ Policy [CD 3-2, Public Information Record Requests](#). The Corrections Captain will decide what information may be released to other agencies or media after a careful examination of the request.
- C-4.** Information that has been de-classified may be used for on-going training purposes. The assigned lieutenant will designate appropriate instructors and training to cover relevant topics.

#### ***SECTION D: INMATE ACTIVITIES***

- D-1. Visitation.** Members who monitor inmate visitation will communicate any suspected sign language, gang related clothing or gang related tattoos and any other suspicious behaviors or actions to the shift supervisor immediately and:
- Identify the visitor(s) by checking the video visitation provider's website or visitation appointment listing.
  - Advise the visitor(s) that gang signing is not allowed and considered disruptive and ask them to stop.
  - Terminate the visit if the behaviors persist, following AJ Policy [CD-12-2, Inmate Visiting Control](#).
  - Document any action taken in the JMS attachments and clearly document the reason for the termination of the visit.
- D-2. Inmate Mail.** Administration members will scan all incoming mail as stated in AJ Policy [CD-12-1, Inmate Mail](#). Administration members will copy and forward any suspected coded mail to The Administrative Lieutenant along with an explanation as to why the mail is suspicious. The Administrative Lieutenant will review the coded messages and make a determination as to what threat, if any, the coded message provides and:
- Forward a copy of the coded message to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office Detective Division.
  - Communicate any relevant information to members through the shift supervisor.
  - Maintain a file of the incident for future information purposes.

- d. Add any intelligence gathered from the message or visitors to information tracking of security threat groups.

**D-3. Inmate Programs.** Deputies monitoring inmate programs will be alert to any gang type language, hand signals, or gestures. Deputies will report any two or more inmates who dress or act in a way that stands out, like shaving their heads or dressing with similar clothing arrangements, such as pegging the cuffs of the pants or wearing the shirt inside out and:

- a. Advise the shift supervisor of the behaviors or activities.
- b. Advise inmates that dressing differently is considered disruptive and will not be tolerated.
- c. Communicate the behaviors or activities to fellow members.
- d. Issue a warning to the inmate for disruptive behavior or disobedience of an order.

**D-4. Housing Operations.** Deputies will look at all walls, doors, tables, and common areas. If gang type graffiti is discovered, a photograph will be taken of the graffiti. An investigation will ensue and every effort will be made to discover where the graffiti came from and who was responsible. During the investigation, the deputy will:

- a. Forward a copy of the photograph(s) and reports to the shift supervisor for tracking of security threat groups.
- b. Identify any network of inmates who may be affiliated with any gang activity inside the jail.
- c. Have the offending inmate clean the graffiti off the wall or table if appropriate (when not appropriate, staff will ensure graffiti is removed).
- d. Take appropriate disciplinary action.

**D-5. Shift Supervisor's Responsibilities.** The shift supervisor will forward any gang or security threat group information to the lieutenant assigned to monitor security threat groups. Copies of all intelligence gathered may be forwarded to the Detective Division for their files. The shift supervisor may communicate to oncoming jail teams about the behaviors discovered and any action taken as a result of investigations or discipline.

The shift supervisor will ensure inmates who change their appearance through shaving their heads, new tattoos, or alter their appearance any other way are photographed and any caution information is added to the JMS and:

- a. Assist in determining the need for any keep-away status between inmates.
- b. Share relevant information with the Classifications Specialist.
- c. Assist in determining the best place to house an identified security threat group member.
- d. Ensure any actions taken by members are based on fact.

**FORMS USED:**

- Jail Incident Report (JMS)