

STG Pilot Program

On October 18, 2012, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation received authorization from the Office of Administrative Law to implement a Pilot Program entitled, Security Threat Group (STG) Identification, Prevention, and Management Program. The Pilot Program was distributed to the field institutions on this same date via an Instructional Memorandum.

The STG Pilot Program has been initiated at all CDCR adult institutions; however, will only have direct impact on those inmates who engage in STG (gang) related behavior and activities. The Pilot Program will remain in effect for a 24 month period, ending October 17, 2014, at which time it will lapse by operation of law, or it will be adopted into official regulations through the Administrative Procedures Act.

The use of the Pilot Program will afford the Department an opportunity to complete this complex retooling of the current gang management strategy, including significant changes to regulations, practices, and institutional culture to ensure success. The changes in this policy will support California's efforts toward establishing a more effective model of managing Security Threat Groups within a Prison Setting.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- The CDCR will incorporate an STG Prevention Program for all offenders during the intake process and a separate orientation process for validated STG Affiliates.
- The terms Prison Gangs and Disruptive Groups have been replaced with Security Threat Groups I and II. This change recognizes that various forms of street/prison gangs may represent a clear and present threat to the safety of others and the security of the institution.
- The validation source items referenced in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, Section 3378 have been given a new weighted point value, which will be utilized in the new validation procedure. In addition to the currently required three source items, the total value of the source items must equal 10 or more points to attain validation.
- Initial validation as an Associate of an STG will no longer result in a mandatory indeterminate SHU placement. Housing for these offenders will be in the general population, unless they have been found to be individually accountable for unauthorized behavior with an STG nexus, as determined by the disciplinary process.
- A new STG Behavior Disciplinary System has been developed that defines Administrative and Serious Behavior, or Activities allowing offenders to be held accountable for STG-related behaviors or activities.
- A new administrative level of review has been incorporated into the validation process by a local STG Classification Committee as a standard requisite within the validation process. Impacted offenders will be advised of the classification hearing in advance and be afforded an additional layer of due process during the validation assessment.
- A Step Down Program (SDP) has been created, which is an individual behavior based program for STG affiliates that will provide housing, enhanced programs, interpersonal interactions, as well as corresponding privilege and personal property enhancements for participating STG affiliates.
- The SDP is designed to be completed in five steps; the first four steps will be accomplished in the SHU, and the final step will generally be completed at a Level IV 180 design facility. The SDP allows offenders engaged in STG behavior or activities to demonstrate their ability to refrain from this type of behavior, and ultimately return to a general population facility more consistent with their placement score.
- A Case by Case review of all current STG affiliates in segregated housing has been initiated to confirm the need for such continued housing via use of the newly established criteria.

PRIVILEGE BASED COMPONENTS

Participation in the SDP affords STG affiliates who effectively progress through the program to earn enhanced privileges consistent with their ability to reintegrate toward a general population setting.

STG affiliates participating in the SDP will be placed in privilege group S1-S4, commensurate with their assigned step of the SDP.

Some of the expanded privilege enhancements include:

- Expanded education and program activities
- Earning up to 50% maximum canteen draw
- Progressive photograph and telephone access
- Increased personal property and television / radio combination unit
- Receipt of an additional personal property package in Step 4

STG PILOT IMPLEMENTATION

Based upon the magnitude of the changes to policy, the CDCR/DAI will phase in implementation. Phase I has begun, which includes a Case-by-Case review of the existing validated STG population within SHU.

The reviews will determine the appropriate placement of those inmates within the new Step Down Program or an Affiliate's potential release to general population housing.

These reviews began on October 25, 2012 at PBSP and will continue at all segregated housing facilities until completed.



Security Threat Group Pilot Program Information

CDCR's program to support and educate offenders desiring to disavow and/or disengage from the gang lifestyle.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation