

ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DETENTION AND CORRECTIONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE	NUMBER: 7.06	PAGES: 1 of 6
	RELATED ORDERS: ACA 4-ALDF-1C-05 MJS 1029 (6) (B) CALEA 46.1.3	
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CHAPTER: Safety and Emergency Procedures	SUBJECT: Disturbance, Riot and Hunger Strikes	

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish plans and procedures for controlling disturbances, riots and hunger strikes.
- II. **POLICY:** Disturbances, riots, violent attacks on staff or inmates, and hunger strikes will be handled immediately to ensure control and de-escalation of violence; prevent personal injury to staff, volunteers and inmates; prevent property damage to the facility; and minimize negative impacts on the general facility operation.
- III. **DEFINITIONS:**
 - A. **RIOT:** Tumultuous acts by inmates to cause willful disorder and confusion.
 - B. **MINOR DISTURBANCE:** Disturbance involving a minimal number of inmates, which can easily be controlled when immediately acted upon.
 - C. **MAJOR DISTURBANCE:** A disturbance involving numerous inmates, where the situation is out of control.
 - D. **HUNGER STRIKE:** An act of one or more inmates refusing to eat as a protest for or against a cause or demand.
- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
 - A. **DETECTION:** In a disturbance or riot situation, time works against the facility and action must be timely to combat any incident before it escalates. Personnel should be aware of warning signs that often precede a disturbance, such as:
 1. Significant changes in inmates' behavior, eating, recreation, or excessive commissary sales
 2. A sharp increase in disciplinary infractions
 3. Sudden reduction in inmate visitation
 4. Inmates who are normally pleasant and talkative suddenly avoid contact with staff and stay to themselves

5. Increased requests for housing unit changes
 6. Group assault on an individual of another group or race; retaliation is almost a certainty when any member of a group is assaulted
 7. Challenging staff authority, testing authority
 8. While any of the above can be due to reasons other than a planned disturbance, they can be signs of unrest and must be analyzed.
- B. PREVENTION: Disturbances in a correctional setting can often be prevented by interpreting and acting on changes in the jail atmosphere and/or inmate behavior patterns. There is a reason for every form of behavior. It is up to the staff member to find out the cause. It is better to act on, rather than react to, behavior which can be eruptive as well as destructive. Some of the things staff can do to prevent disturbances within the facility are:
1. Create and maintain good communication with inmates regarding plans, programs and procedures.
 - a. Staff members who are knowledgeable of policies and procedures create trust and confidence in inmates.
 - b. Well informed staff members are better able to relay appropriate information to inmates in a timely manner.
 2. Open communication between staff and supervisors will increase reporting of unrest among inmates.
 - a. Staff briefings will include reasonable time for staff members to contribute information to the group and the supervisor.
 - b. Supervisors will make themselves available to staff regularly. Private conversations often contain very sensitive information that may bear directly upon inmate unrest.
 3. Morale among inmates is maintained in a variety of ways. The objective in maintaining morale is to develop a feeling that inmates' basic needs are being adequately met in such matters as food, clothing, medical attention, etc. Equally important to the inmates is a sense of being treated fairly and justly; having the opportunity to appeal to authority by writing grievances; and a belief that their basic welfare is a matter of concern to management.
 4. The administration of fair and even-handed discipline is fundamental to maintaining an orderly facility. This cannot be accomplished if some staff members are inexcusably lax and others are needlessly harsh. Rules, regulations, policies and procedures for administering discipline must be specifically spelled out. All staff and inmates must be informed of the policies management will enforce. Otherwise, laxity and severity will exist side by side and prepare the scene for dissension and disturbances.

5. Prompt and positive handling of inmate complaints and grievances is essential in maintaining good morale. A firm "no" can be as effective as granting a request in reducing an inmate's tensions, particularly if the inmate feels the problem has been given genuine consideration by the appropriate officials and if given a reason for denial. An individual can live with "yes" or "no" but a "maybe" or "perhaps" creates frustration. Equivocation and vague answers create false hopes and increase a person's anger when nothing is done.
6. Food complaints are one of the primary causes of disturbances in a detention facility. Facility food must maintain a proper diet, be wholesomely prepared and attractively served in clean surroundings. It is important that cold food is served cold and hot food is served hot.
7. Clothing is another issue where many complaints are heard. Ill fitting or improperly laundered clothing, as well as poor issue or exchange procedures could be very costly to the facility. It is important that inmates be provided appropriate clothing.

C. PANIC ALARM/LOCKDOWN (SRJ only):

1. If a "Panic Alarm" is initiated from any housing unit, either Control Point (CP)-7 or CP-48 will establish communication with that unit to determine if electronic control of that unit should be assumed. If no communication can be established, the appropriate CP will assume control until the situation can be further evaluated.
2. CP-1 will immediately notify the area sergeant and on-duty Watch Commander.
3. A lockdown order will normally be given by the on-duty sergeant or Watch Commander. If the situation dictates, a deputy can call for a lockdown, and inform the area supervisor immediately of what conditions were observed to warrant a lockdown.
4. Once the order is given, all inmates will be returned to their housing units and locked in their cells/dorms. This procedure should occur as rapidly as possible. If any inmates refuse to lock down, the area supervisor will be notified.

D. MAJOR DISTURBANCE:

1. In a riot situation, the primary concern is securing the facility as swiftly as possible.
2. The deputy in charge of the area where a riot, major or substantial event, or series of actions occur which jeopardizes the safety of staff, volunteers or inmates, or violates the overall integrity and security of the facility, will immediately notify Central Control/CP-1, and their immediate supervisor of the situation, area involved, approximate number of inmates involved and current situation status.
3. The shift supervisor will immediately notify the Watch Commander, who will make the determination whether a lockdown or continued lockdown is necessary.
4. If a lockdown is implemented, it should include the entire facility to provide sufficient staff for search teams and increase deputy presence in the affected area.

5. Deputies will be sent to designated locations to obtain necessary equipment. An action plan will be presented. The Watch Commander will assign a staff member to videotape all disturbances, when possible.
6. If the Watch Commander believes a lockdown is in order, he/she will immediately notify the facility Commanding Officer. The lockdown will include the following:
 - a. No pod/yard recreational access
 - b. No inmate telephone use
 - c. No television
 - d. No visiting; if the incident occurs during visiting days, visiting cancellation notification will be posted in the lobby
 - e. Suspension of all in-house programs
 - f. Suspension of mail delivery
7. The lobby staff will instruct all visitors to leave the facility. A staff member will be assigned to ensure that all visitors comply.
8. Responding deputies will isolate the involved inmates and secure the facility internally. Inmates not wishing to participate in the riot/disturbance will be given an opportunity to withdraw from the affected area.
9. The Watch Commander, upon approval of the Commanding Officer, will make appropriate notification to administrative personnel and outside departments or divisions, if additional assistance is necessary. The Watch Commander will dispatch armed personnel to secure the perimeter of the facility to prevent escapes and outside inmate support.
10. The Commanding Officer will determine the necessary lawful force to be used to overcome resistance and prevent renewed violence.
11. Once a thorough search has been made of the entire housing floor/unit, at least three deputies shall remain in each side of the housing floor/unit. This additional staffing will protect prisoners, staff and the facility from damage.
12. Feeding shall be conducted one pod at a time. Deputies working this housing floor/unit are to maintain visible presence in the pod area at all times.
13. No less than two deputies will move any inmate.
14. Upon order of the Commanding Officer, lockdown status will be terminated. Termination of the lockdown will be slow and deliberate to ensure orderly transition to normal operations.

- E. **MINOR DISTURBANCE:** In a minor disturbance, the first priority is to contain the situation with sufficient personnel.
1. The deputy in charge of the area where the disturbance is occurring will notify Central Control/CP-1 of the situation and Central Control/CP-1 will advise the Watch Commander, via the shift supervisor.
 2. The shift supervisor and available personnel will respond to the location.
 3. The shift supervisor will evaluate the situation to determine if a lockdown of the entire facility is necessary and will notify the Watch Commander. All lockdowns will occur in accordance with section "D" of this procedure.
- F. **HUNGER STRIKE:** In the event of a hunger strike by inmate(s), the area sergeant or Watch Commander will attempt to resolve the situation by communicating with the inmate(s) to determine the problem and a possible solution. If a hunger strike continues for more than 24-hours, medical staff will be advised and will initiate the specialized medical protocol for treatment and monitoring of inmates on a hunger strike. This includes daily checks of the physical well-being of the inmate(s) to determine medical care needed.
- G. **POST DISTURBANCE/RIOT:** Steps shall be taken as soon as the disturbance is under control to ensure that no one has escaped and the facility is secure. These steps shall include the following.
1. Injured inmates and/or staff will be treated as soon as possible.
 2. Participants in the riot shall be confined and sufficient staff assigned to maintain control.
 3. Agitators shall be separated.
 4. An accounting of all prisoners shall be taken.
 5. Activities shall be curtailed until order is restored.
 6. The respective area sergeant will designate a deputy to write an Incident or Crime Report covering damages, injuries and/or arrests.
 - a. All involved employees will submit supplemental reports.
 - b. Routine reporting procedure will be implemented.
 - c. Statements of witnesses shall be taken as soon as possible.
 - d. Damage will be photographed.
 7. Immediate steps shall be taken to repair damage.
 8. Prisoners' personal property in the affected area shall be placed in a secure area.

9. An immediate investigation into the incident will begin and may include assistance from Eden Township Substation investigators.
10. Within 24 hours of the incident, Classification will report to the affected housing unit to interview inmates. The information gathered will assist in:
 - a. Determining the duration of the lockdown
 - b. Determining the cause of the incident and identifying suspects or unresolved issues
 - c. Identifying any additional participants, gang involvement, or other security issues, etc.
 - d. Evaluating how future incidents might be avoided