Michigan

Office of the Auditor General

REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Special Alternative Incarceration Program

Department of Corrections

Report Number:
471-0202-05

Released:
August 2007

The Special Alternative Incarceration Program (SAI) is an alternative to prison for selected male and female prisoners and probationers convicted of certain nonassaultive crimes. SAI is a 90-day military-style boot camp that seeks to provide its trainees with the opportunity to change their anti-social attitudes and criminal lifestyles and prepare themselves for reentry into the community as productive, law-abiding citizens.

Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness of the Department of Corrections' (DOC's) efforts to evaluate the benefits of SAI.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that DOC's efforts to evaluate the benefits of SAI were moderately effective. We noted one reportable condition (Finding 1).

Reportable Condition:
DOC had not developed a comprehensive process to assist in evaluating the success of SAI (Finding 1).

Noteworthy Accomplishments:
SAI graduated 5,125 trainees during the period January 2002 through November 2005. Of those who graduated, 1,019 (19.9%) received a general educational development (GED) certificate while participating in SAI.

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Audit Objective:
To assess SAI's compliance with selected policies and procedures related to safety and security.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that SAI was generally in compliance with selected policies and procedures related to safety and security. However, we noted four reportable conditions (Findings 2 through 5).

Reportable Conditions:
SAI did not ensure that officers documented the performance of the required number of trainee shakedowns and housing unit searches (Finding 2).

SAI did not ensure that the public works sergeant performed and documented all required weekly inspections of public works assignments. Also, SAI did not ensure that the deputy warden or the inspector performed and documented all quarterly inspections of public works assignments. (Finding 3)

SAI did not comply with its procedure requiring security over medical tools (Finding 4).

SAI staff did not document in the trainees' files that trainees attended orientation in tool use and public works (Finding 5).

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of SAI's food service and warehousing operations.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that SAI's food service operation was moderately effective and was efficient. We also concluded that SAI's warehousing operation was effective and efficient. We noted one reportable condition (Finding 6).

Reportable Condition:
SAI did not sufficiently document menu item evaluations, quarterly nutritional reviews, and average caloric content calculations (Finding 6).

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Audit Objective:
To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of SAI's eligibility screening and intake processes.

Audit Conclusion:
We concluded that SAI's eligibility screening process was moderately effective and was efficient. We also concluded that SAI's intake process was effective and efficient. We noted one reportable condition (Finding 7).

Reportable Condition:
SAI did not ensure that information retained in the database used to track potentially eligible prisoners was complete and easily accessible (Finding 7).

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Agency Response:
Our audit report includes 7 findings and 8 corresponding recommendations. DOC's preliminary response indicates that it and SAI agree with all of the recommendations and have complied or will comply with them.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: http://audgen.michigan.gov

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