

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

IONIA CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This report, issued in September 1999, contains the results of our performance audit* of the Ionia Correctional Facilities, Department of Corrections (DOC).

AUDIT PURPOSE

This performance audit was conducted as part of the constitutional responsibility of the Office of the Auditor General. Performance audits are conducted on a priority basis related to the potential for improving effectiveness* and efficiency*.

BACKGROUND

The Ionia Correctional Facilities include the Richard A. Handlon Michigan Training Unit (HMTU) and Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility (I-Max). These facilities are under the jurisdiction of DOC and are physically separate, with a warden as the chief administrative officer for each facility. The DOC director appoints the wardens, who are classified under the State civil service system.

The two facilities share services in the areas of personnel and the business office.

The mission* of the two facilities is to confine prisoners securely and to provide a safe living and working environment with opportunities for personal growth and

development. HMTU, opened in 1958, is a level II medium security* facility for younger males and has a capacity of 1,327 prisoners. I-Max, opened in 1987, has a capacity of 240 level II medium security and 322 level VI maximum security* male prisoners.

HMTU had appropriations of \$20.3 million for fiscal year 1997-98 and, as of December 31, 1998, had 324 employees. I-Max had appropriations of \$22.8 million for fiscal year 1997-98 and, as of December 31, 1998, had 362 employees.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES,
CONCLUSIONS, AND
NOTEWORTHY
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness of the Ionia Correctional Facilities' safety and security operations.

Conclusion: We concluded that the Ionia Correctional Facilities' safety and security operations were generally effective. However, we noted reportable conditions* related to prisoner shakedowns* and cell searches*, tool controls, key security, gate manifests*, and accounting for visitors (Findings 1 through 5).

Audit Objective: To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the Ionia Correctional Facilities' prisoner care and maintenance operations.

Conclusion: We concluded that the Ionia Correctional Facilities' prisoner care and maintenance operations were generally effective and efficient. However, we noted reportable conditions related to preventive maintenance and employee meals (Findings 6 through 8).

Noteworthy Accomplishments: HMTU has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections of the American Correctional Association.

AUDIT SCOPE AND
METHODOLOGY

Our audit scope was to examine the program and other records of the Ionia Correctional Facilities. Our audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and, accordingly, included such tests of the records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

Our methodology included testing of records and activities for the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1998. Our methodology also included a preliminary review of the facilities' operations. This included discussions with the facilities' staff regarding their functions and responsibilities; tests of program records; and review of directives, policies and procedures, reports, and other reference materials to gain an understanding of the facilities' activities. We conducted tests of records related to safety and security, prisoner care, and preventive maintenance activities for compliance with applicable policies and procedures and overall program effectiveness and efficiency.

In addition, we developed a survey (see supplemental information) requesting input from certain individuals and businesses regarding their association with the facilities.

AGENCY RESPONSES

Our audit report contains 8 findings and 8 recommendations. HMTU and I-Max indicated that they either have complied with or have taken steps to comply with all of the recommendations.