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"We commit to the safety and well-being of the people of New Mexico by doing the right thing, always."

New Mexico Corrections Department
Press Release

July 24, 2012

Re: New Mexico Prisons Shakedown Results

"During the shakedown, 20 shanks were found statewide, mostly in the general population housing units. The results of the shakedown have revealed that we need to isolate a group of trouble-makers in our general population prisons. We will be isolating the group of trouble-makers and placing them in a higher security setting to monitor and deter their activity."

-Director of Adult Prisons Jerry Roark
New Mexico Corrections Department

The NMCD has identified the group of "trouble-makers" but, based on our commitment to security threat management; we will not give any more detail regarding the identified inmates. We consider them to be loosely tied individuals who, through our environmental management, will never be allowed to organize and increase risk toward other inmates and staff.

July 11, 2012, all New Mexico prisons were placed on a statewide lockdown. The lockdown affected all prisons in New Mexico that have state inmates, including private contract prisons. Twenty handmade weapons (shanks) and nuisance contraband were found at the prisons statewide. According to NMCD policy, nuisance contraband is extra blankets, magazines, trash, approved items (in excess); items that are deemed not to be serious or dangerous, but are not allowed.

The lockdown ended statewide and all prisons returned to normal activities by July 18, 2012.

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As prison officials we need to stay vigilant and aware of everything in our prisons to keep them safe. It is also important for the inmates, staff, and community to know that we take the security of our prisons very seriously. This was not the first time we've done it, and it's not going to be the last.

During the shakedown, prison staff looked for drugs, weapons, gang paraphernalia, and anything suspicious that could compromise the safety and security of the prison staff and inmates. These types of shakedowns will be done on a routine basis to ensure the safety and security of our prisons is being met.

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