

**State of New Mexico  
Corrections Department**

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Outlets Sent – Statewide Media Release**

**Reference: Inmate File Audit – Phase 1 Results**

**Date of Release: May 15, 2013**

**Subject(s):**

**Details:** The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) has completed Phase 1 of its inmate file audit. This Audit included review of 6,900 inmate files and identified 51 offenders who were released early between September 2010 and September 2012 because of miscalculations that occurred in most cases years before the inmate’s release.

In 2012, during critical review of the Department's processes for inmate sentencing calculations, systemic flaws and outdated work measures were noted. Going forward, new processes were put into place to ensure inmates are not released early and the complicated calculations and paperwork are done accurately.

In September 2012 New Mexico Corrections Department Secretary Gregg Marcantel ordered an audit of all inmate files dating back to 2006, when the department’s last audit was conducted. Because public safety is the priority, the audit was broken down into three phases; phase one included all inmates released between September 2010 and September 2012. This time period was chosen because if an offender is going to reoffend, it’s normally within 2 years.

Phase one was further broken down, with serious violent offenders files reviewed first, then males, then females. There were approximately 6,900 inmate files to review in phase 1.

NMCD is currently unable to publicly identify those 51 offenders by name because their files are under review and some will most likely be brought back into custody. We are not naming them to ensure those offenders do not abscond. Attached you will find a spreadsheet that shows the offenders’ crimes and how much time they had left to serve when released.

Phase 2 is currently underway now. That review will look at all high risk offenders, those with violent or serious crimes, released between January 2006 – August 2010. Phase 2 has approximately 10,000 offender files.

Phase 3 will include all other offenders released between January 2006 – August 2010. Phase 3 has approximately 8,600 files.

NMCD releases more than 300 offenders a month. Secretary Marcantel has centralized the records bureau to ensure that every inmate file is completely recalculated, starting from the time the inmate entered the facility, to ensure no errors have been made. That file is then sent to a quality control auditor who recalculates the inmate's time to ensure they are eligible to be released. This overhaul is crucial in ensuring public safety through correction of the system's design going forward.

Out of Phase 1:

- 51 offenders released early
- 45 offenders were released owing 1 year or less.
- 30 offenders were released owing 32 days or less.
- 7 offenders owe parole only, they did serve their full prison term
- 6 offenders on the list are already back in custody on other charges
- Most miscalculations were made years before the offender was released.

NMCD has already begun the review of each case, and has already authorized law enforcement and our STIU (Security Threat Intelligence Unit) agents to pick up offenders who were released early.

If you would like to speak to the Secretary on-camera or for an interview, he will be available starting at 2pm today. Please contact me (249-8023) to set up a time. Please also let me know any questions you have.

Thank you,

Alex

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