

Mr. Gary D. Maynard,
President
American Correctional Association
206 North Washington Street
Suite 200
Alexandria, VA. 22314

May 31, 2011

Re: Oversight/Audit of
Sterling Corr. Facility

Dear Mr. Maynard:

As hopeful as I am that you might actually read this letter, I have a "cautious pessimism" that it will get past the screening process by your assisting staff members. But, with that said, I feel compelled to address and inquire about our situation here at this facility at the risk of retaliation by the administration. I will summarize without being too verbose and/or redundant and without naming names until asked to if things go that far. I'm sure you receive many letters of complaint by prisoners throughout the year, voicing dissatisfaction with their internment, as expected. I wish to be an exception to the norm.

The question I pose first and foremost is this: does this group of association members conduct independent investigations and auditing of State facilities or does the association "rubber stamp" what ever the status quo is and what has been written in reports when asked? Whenever our facility is scheduled for an audit, the staff go on a multi-tasking facility compliance mission which entails inmates complying with every type of job requirement "ordered" them. This compliance modus operandi systematically attempts to bring the blatant, everyday dysfunctional operation together for your "pre-planned" inspection held once a year. The rest of the time we suffer at the hands of incompetency. Why do you telegraph your inspections? Why do I ask such an obvious-answered question? To hear the truth if possible.

I have been housed here at the Sterling Correctional Facility in Sterling, Colorado for six years now, and have yet to hear a truthful answer to why we are still receiving polluted and toxic water. The citizens of Sterling have water "depots" set-up around the town to allow the residents "water stations" to obtain potable drinking water. Are we less than human that it is acceptable for us to drink known carcinogenic laced water? Basically what we're told is that the water isn't "that" bad, while 99% if not more, of the staff here bring in

bottled water. I have yet to witness, in the six years I've been here at Sterling, a staff member consume this water. I have repeatedly heard staff exclaim "they would never, ever, drink this water." When the A.C.A. auditing committee arrives for its annual inspection, do they drink this water? I seriously doubt it. I would like to know what poisonous chemical contents are in our drinking water. Can you provide me with this information or should I write to the Environmental Protection Agency? I should know the answer to this question already because nobody will answer it. My daughter is inquiring to other agencies such as the state water safety board.

The State has decided to "add" more cells to an already crowded housing situation. I am housed in one of the "T" style buildings on the alleged "Minimum Restricted" security level side of this facility. There are 96 men housed in the building without this additional remodeling proposal. Two more cells have been "designed" into our common area dayroom space that is supposed to provide for space to gather to use the phones (just 4--for 96 people) card/game tables (4-for 96 people) television watching area with plastic chairs (15 chairs and approximately 900 square feet of space for 96 men, and in this same projected added-cell area, is the isle/access to the different hall way space. This reduces our only gathering area outside of our cells to approximately 780 Sq.Ft.. For 100 men! Is this the standard that A.C.A. sets as criteria, or does the federal government set this standard? Can you give me this usable space/common area per inmate criteria to avoid a series of legal action similar to California's recent S.Ct. ruling??

Prior to my being incarcerated, I was a Project Mgr./Estimator for one of the largest builders in the state. I was head of the multi-unit residential section in this company. My job was to insure that all fire-code regulations were being adhered to. With that knowledge, I have first-hand observations and associated fears of these "T" buildings we are housed in. These buildings wouldn't pass a state fire inspection for multi-unit residential in a Third World country! They have no fire-rated wall/ceiling/floor construction. There are no fire-dampers separating the HVAC systems between floors, nor is there any Fire-caulking to be seen anywhere. The hallway doors aren't close to being the proper fire-rated core doors, I installed doors for several years in hi-rise multi-unit residential buildings. The outside walls, separation walls, the boiler room walls nextdoor to cells have no multiple layer fire-rated drywall.

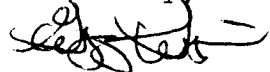
Last year in August 2010, an inmate escaped this Level 5 facility and as a result, the security staff has deemed it necessary to "Screw" fasteners, to the outside of our windows. This eliminates another fire escape route, one of the few remaining accessible from the 2nd floor. Combine the blatant violations of fire-code building standards, no fire-rated hallway access to escape these cells, 2nd floor windows. (all outside windows)screwed shut, and what we live in is a "fireplace."

There are hundreds of inmates who are classified as Minimum Restricted or Minimum Closed. such as myself, living in a Level 5 facility, behind 3 chain-link topped razor wire fences with a "Kill-fence" in between. This violates the Administrative Regulation 600-01-I-Policy guidelines stipulated by the Department of Corrections. How does the facility/CDOC pick and choose which A.R.'s to abide by? Again, there is a blatant double-standard to almost every operational rule imposed on inmates by CDOC. Our only option is to file expensive lawsuits claiming violations to our Constitutional rights. This in turn costs the state more funds already depleted, legal costs defending problems easily avoided by just following regulations and procedures set by the Federal Government and the Bureau of Prisons.

Mr. Maynard, this state, like many others, is suffering budgetary problems as you are well aware of. Does this give justification to cut back on our food portions? When your auditing staff arrives, we seem to receive the proper portions allotted by dietary standards. Why is that? Well obviously when your staff schedules an audit six months in advance there is adequate time to prepare. How about a "surprise" visit? That would give an accurate assessment of the facility operations. Unfortunately, I doubt that will ever take place. Accountability amongst like institutions or their administrative staff is similar to police policing police. Judges recusing themselves. It just doesn't happen.

I could continue with several **instances** of human rights violations, but I have so little faith in agencies holding their "peers" accountable that I won't hold my breath waiting for a response. That's not to say **you won't** react on this communication. Will you Mr. Maynard? I look forward to your response, and hope for resolution.

Sincerely,



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