



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Office of the State Inspector General

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The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
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Dear Governor Youngkin,

The Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) conducted an unannounced inspection of Nottoway Correctional Center. This report includes a summary of the factors listed in *Code of Virginia* § 53.1-17.6 (B), recommendations, safety and compliance classification, recommended timeline for the next inspection, and the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) response to the inspection.

Inspection Report: Nottoway Correctional Center
August 20, 2025 at 8:20 a.m.

Background

Nottoway Correctional Center is a level III security facility located in Burkeville, Virginia. The facility consists of six housing units with a total operational capacity of 1,400 inmates. At the time of inspection, the facility housed 1,088 inmates.

Inspection Scope

This inspection was not intended to assess compliance with legislative or regulatory requirements, nor assess compliance with Department policies, though both were considered where relevant. The facility inspection was conducted with the Warden, Assistant Warden, Building and Grounds Maintenance, and Safety Officer.

The inspection methodologies employed during the assessment were multifaceted and designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the facility's operations and environment. The inspection team used a variety of methods to gain an understanding of daily life and operations at the facility. These included inquiries and conversations with staff and inmates, as well as extensive on-site observations. Inspectors observed how staff and inmates interacted and paid attention to how procedures were followed throughout the facility.

The inspection encompassed nearly all major operational areas within the facility. Areas assessed included one administrative office, commissary, control room, exercise area, inmate dining hall, staff dining hall, kitchen, intake/release, laundry, medical/mental health/dental care, programs/services, recreational, special housing, storage, visitation, vocational and educational classrooms, property, and the library. The outer perimeter and outer buildings were not reviewed during this inspection.

To supplement on-site observations, inspectors reviewed various facility documents. These included a food establishment inspection report, program schedules/waitlist, program completion and removal records, implementation memorandums, the facility's Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) response plan, work orders, visitor logs, and surveillance system inventories. This documentation provided additional context and insight into facility operations and compliance practices.

Safety/Security

The facility had several security measures in place to ensure the safety of staff, inmates, and visitors. Screening procedures included the use of a visitor log, walk-through metal detector, and pat-down/clothed body search. The perimeter was secured with double fencing topped with razor wire. A roving mobile patrol monitors the facility's secure perimeter, along with the adjacent perimeter of Nottoway Work Center. The facility has three access points (sallyport, receiving and release, and front entrance). Administration reported that the video surveillance system had 810 Max Pro System cameras.

Fire extinguishers were accessible to both staff and inmates throughout the facility. The fire extinguishers observed during the inspection were up to date with monthly inspections, except for one fire extinguisher discovered in a Lower N Control Room.

Housing

The facility consisted of two dormitory housing units, Lower O East, and Lower O West buildings, which were identified as the honor units. The Lower N East and Lower N West buildings are identified as the Restorative Housing Units (RHU). RHU is VADOC's nationally recognized pathway to reduce restrictive housing. The Upper N East and Upper N West housing units were being renovated to house re-entry participants.

Inmates housed in the Lower N West building (RHU) had access to two telephones, one of which was mobile and on a cart with wheels, one regular table, and six restraint tables – each with chairs, one JPay station, one standing weighing scale, four security showers, two large wall fans, and two large floor fans. During the inspection, facility staff reported that the cell lights were currently being updated and replaced with a new model.

The Lower N West unit also had a “cool down room.” Inmates may request or be referred to the cool down room to reflect or practice de-escalation techniques during a difficult situation or encounter. This provides the inmate with an opportunity to step away from their immediate environment and reflect on their behavior before the situation escalates to a threatening level. Inspectors observed the units to be generally clean and organized.

The Lower N East building (RHU) had a similar layout as Lower N West. The Lower N East building had two telephones, both of which were mobile and mounted on a wheeled cart, one inoperable video visiting kiosk, two wall fans and two floor fans, one regular table, and six restraint tables – each with chairs, and designated cells with a multipoint restraint bunk. Both the Lower N West and East buildings had 32 cells in each unit. The Lower N buildings are all designated single bunk cells.

Inmates housed in the Lower O West building had access to four showers, five telephones, one inoperable video visiting kiosk, one JPay station, one microwave oven, one pool table, one ironing board, six large wall fans, one water fountain, one ice machine, one hot water dispenser, and a shared laundry area between the two units containing two washing machines and two clothing dryers. Both the Lower O East and Lower O West buildings had 32 cells in each unit.

The Lower O East building had a similar housing layout as Lower O West. During the inspection, paint was peeling from the walls in the Lower O East building. The Lower O East building was equipped with double bunks in all 32 cells.

During the inspection, the Upper N East building was being renovated for re-entry housing. There were 32 cells, five telephones, one JPay station, one video visiting kiosk, one television, four showers, and one cleaning closet. Facility staff reported that the cleaning chemicals were kept in the control booth and were distributed to inmates in the unit as needed. Both the Upper N East and Upper N West buildings utilized two inmate peer mentors to assist with the needs of the inmates in the unit. Reportedly, when inmates first arrive in the Upper N East and West buildings and Lower O East and West buildings, they receive a fan to help with air circulation in their personal living area.

The Upper O West had a similar housing layout to the Lower O West and East Buildings. The inmates housed in the Upper O West had access to four showers, with one inoperable shower.,

one pool table, one JPay station, one video visitation kiosk, one regular table, six restraint tables, and six telephones.

The Lower D East building is designated for new intake inmates. The housing layout in the Lower D East building had a layout like Lower O East. Inmates housed in this unit had access to five telephones, one JPay station, five fans for air circulation, one video visiting kiosk, four showers, one television, one microwave, one ice machine, and five tables with chairs. The cells in Lower D East building were all double bunk cells.

The Upper C East building had a layout like Lower D East building. Inmates housed in Lower D East had access to six telephones (one inoperable), one JPay station, one video visiting kiosk, four showers, three wall fans and two floor fans for air circulation, one television, one microwave, one ice machine, and four tables with chairs. The cells in Upper D East building were all double bunk cells. Facility staff reported that a work order was previously submitted for the inoperable telephone.

The Upper A West building had a similar layout to the Upper C East building. Inmates housed in the Upper A West building had access to six telephones, one JPay station, one video visiting kiosk, four showers, five fans for air circulation, one television, one microwave, one ice machine, and four tables with chairs. The water fountain in this unit was inoperable, and facility staff reported a work order was previously submitted.

The Lower B East building had a similar layout to the Upper A West building. Inmates housed in the Lower B East building had access to six telephones, one JPay station, one video visiting kiosk, four showers, six fans for circulation, one television, one microwave, one ice machine, and four tables with chairs.

Each cell area throughout the facility was equipped with mattress pads, pillows, state issued linens, electrical outlets, and lighting.

Sanitation

The facility was observed to be generally clean and free of clutter throughout all inspected areas. The housing units appeared properly sanitized. Each housing unit had designated inmate workers, identified as inmate porters, responsible for daily cleaning tasks to include cleaning showers, sweeping, mopping, and using detergent or a germicidal agent.

All trash was properly contained and disposed of in a sanitary manner. No signs of pests or rodents were observed during the inspection. Inspectors observed fly traps in housing units, but no flies or pests were seen on the traps. Common area toilets and sinks are sanitized by inmate

workers. Cleaning chemicals and equipment were available throughout the facility. Inspectors observed the kitchen floors in need of a deep cleaning due to stains and grime.

Food Services

The facility had two dining halls, each with 34 tables and four chairs at each table. There were two fans for air circulation in the first dining hall, along with an ice machine. Only general population inmates eat their meals in the dining hall. The second dining hall prepares the brown bag lunches and the breakfast meal for the new intake inmates. The second dining hall has three fans for air circulation with 28 tables and four chairs at each table.

Some inmate workers were observed not wearing appropriate hair nets while working in the kitchen. Inspectors observed the inmates preparing the afternoon meal which included chicken nuggets and fried squash. Inspectors observed an inmate handling noodles with bare hands and not wearing appropriate gloves. During the inspection, foul odors were identified coming from the tray room and facility staff reported the drains may need to be cleaned. Inspectors also observed bags of ice placed on the kitchen floor and one inoperable oven. Staff reported the work order was submitted for the oven and maintenance staff were awaiting the parts for the repair.

The staff dining hall offered nine tables with two or four chairs per table. This dining area also had a salad bar, soda machine and snack machine, a food service line, and a microwave. There were two fans for air circulation located in the staff dining hall. Inspectors noted that the floor in the staff kitchen and dining area required deep cleaning due to visible staining.

Inmates housed at the facility receive commissary from Keefe Commissary Network (KCN). KCN provides contracted automated commissary management services and technologies to city, county, and state correctional facilities. The commissary deliveries are received on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays; deliveries are pre-packaged and ready for delivery.

Medical Services

The facility's medical unit consisted of approximately 30 medical staff members. There were three physicians and one physician's assistant assigned in the medical clinic. The remaining medical staff consisted of supervising registered nurses, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, certified nursing assistants, and clerical/administrative staff. Medical services are provided 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Sick call line is also available seven days a week. Inmates with emergency medical grievances are triaged and seen within 72 hours of receipt to ensure medical needs are met. If inmates at the facility require physical therapy services, those services are provided offsite at Beaumont Correctional Center.

Nottoway Correctional Center's medical unit had four observation rooms, which were not wheelchair accessible. The medical clinic also had one reverse isolation room and one inmate shower area.

Dental treatment is provided Monday through Friday, in the clinic, for routine screenings. There is one dentist, two dental assistants, and one hygienist assigned in the dental clinic. Dental staff at the facility reported they were conducting approximately 120 dental screenings per week.

Additionally, this facility's medical unit had a secure mental health waiting area and two secure medical holding areas. The facility has eight psychologists and one senior psychologist assigned in the clinic, with a total of nine mental health treatment rooms.

Gymnasium/Recreation

The indoor gymnasium was a multi-use area which was utilized for some inmate religious services and program services. The gymnasium had a weight exercise area, four telephones, classroom/program rooms, one water fountain, one elliptical exercise machine, five basketball hoops, one punching bag, one microphone area, one washing machine and one clothes dryer in a laundry room, and one small outdoor recreational area. The small outdoor recreational area had a horseshoe set, volleyball, soccer, and basketball courts.

Visitation Room and Intake Area

The facility offers non-contact visiting rooms for inmates participating in the RHU program. For additional security precautions, upon arrival, approved visitors must have their hand stamped with an ink that is visible by using a black light scanner.

The visiting area had a water fountain, tables with plastic chairs, vending machines, television, and an area for children with toys, games, and coloring activities. The visiting area was also utilized as a multi-purpose staging area for inmate transfers prior to being escorted to the receiving and release area.

During the inspection, inspectors observed the ceiling in Central Control was dusty, stained and had multiple holes.

Programs/Services Area

This facility offered a variety of vocational and educational programming to support inmate rehabilitation and skill development. The program and services area contained several well-equipped classrooms and skill-based workshops, which supported both vocational and educational opportunities. The facility offered vocational training in areas such as Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), horticulture, and Data Communication Equipment

(DCE). In addition to vocational programming, the facility offered Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Educational Development (GED) instruction.

The inmate law library was also available for inmate access. The law library had one inmate clerk assigned to assist the law librarian. Inmates are offered access to the law library through a sign-up list and availability is listed from Monday through Friday.

The facility maintained a regular library despite not having an assigned librarian. Inmates are afforded the opportunity to check out and return books upon request.

Complaint, Grievance, and Administrative Forms

Written complaint forms, regular grievance forms, and emergency grievance forms were available and accessible to inmates within their assigned housing units. Emergency grievance forms were maintained in each housing unit. If or when forms are unavailable, they may be requested directly from staff. Once completed, the emergency grievance form is required to be submitted to a staff member for immediate processing.

In Lower O building, staff utilize a housing unit representative system, whereby a designated inmate clerk is responsible for requesting forms (excluding the emergency grievance form) on behalf of the housing unit. Inmates can then obtain these forms from the unit representative (inmate clerk) and submit the completed forms for processing.

Additional Information

As validated by the Department's Research Unit on December 20, 2025:

- **Staffing:** The facility employs 200 security staff and 149 non-security staff, with 139 current vacancies of 123 security and 16 non-security positions. In the last year, 32 staff members received disciplinary actions. The average tenure of correctional staff is eight years. *VADOC provided the staff-to-inmate ratio at the facility; however, due to security concerns, this information will not be publicly reported.*
- **Lockdowns:** Three lockdowns occurred within the last year between August 21, 2024, and August 20, 2025, and five lockdowns occurred in the past three years. The most recent scheduled lockdown occurred on January 5, 2023, and the latest unscheduled lockdown occurred on July 8, 2024.
- **Physical/Sexual Assaults/Deaths:** There were two serious assaults on staff in the last year between August 21, 2024, and August 20, 2025, and seven serious assaults on inmates during the same time period. There were three serious assaults on staff in the past three years between August 21, 2022, and August 20, 2025, and 23 serious assaults on

inmates during the same time period. There were three allegations of sexual assaults in the past year with one allegation substantiated and the other allegation unsubstantiated. There were 18 allegations of sexual assaults within the last three years. Three allegations were unfounded, 12 allegations were unsubstantiated, and three allegations were substantiated. The facility recorded nine inmate deaths in the past three years between August 21, 2022, and August 20, 2025. Causes of deaths included two from natural causes, two drug overdoses, and five are pending cause of death by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The facility recorded no staff deaths in the last three years.

- **Visitation:** In the last year, there were 1,327 in-person visitation requests and 4,179 video visitation requests. There were nine video visitation denials and one in-person denial between August 21, 2024, and August 20, 2025, due to inappropriate behavior/indecent exposure (nine) and suspected contraband introduction into the facility (one).

Recommendations

Based on the items observed during this inspection, OSIG recommends that the facility:

- Develop a cleaning schedule and train inmate porters to clean stairs in all living areas. If area is not accessible to inmates, then train and assign staff or hire a cleaning remediation company to clean the area.
- Develop an inspection and cleaning schedule for maintenance staff to assist with cleaning and clearing the kitchen and food service drains and grease traps, ensuring security screws are secured. Additionally, the floors in all kitchens are recommended for deep cleaning to align with health and safety inspections and the American Correctional Association's standards for sanitation inspections (5-ACI-5D-01).
- Implement a regular inspection and cleaning schedule for floor drains in the dining hall areas and ensure the security screws are secured back in place.
- Repair all phones, video visiting stations and JPay kiosks for use by the inmate population.
- Repair all sinks and showers in the housing units for use by the inmate population.
- Develop an annual schedule to conduct cleaning and maintenance of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system throughout the facility.
- All doorways, entrances, hallways and living areas should be in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and the American Correctional Association for Equal Employment Opportunity regarding reasonable accommodation modifications for qualified applicants 5-ACI-1C-07, and Housing and Access to Programs for inmates with disabilities 5-ACI-2C-11.

Inspectors Comments

We would like to thank Nottoway Correctional Center staff for their cooperation and assistance during this inspection. Our team was impressed by the comradery of the staff members, which reflected greatly during the inspection.

Facility Classification

Tier III – This facility had adequate conditions of confinement and programming options requiring an inspection within the next 36 months.

Department of Corrections Response

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) appreciates the Office of the State Inspector General's (OSIG) comprehensive and constructive inspection of Nottoway Correctional Center. We are encouraged that the report reflects the facility's commitment to safety, sanitation, and the provision of rehabilitative programming in a structured and responsive environment.

Several of the recommendations outlined in the report have already been addressed. Work orders were submitted to repair inoperable telephones, showers, sinks, and video visitation kiosks across multiple housing units. The water fountain in Upper A West and the oven in the kitchen are also undergoing repairs, with maintenance staff actively coordinating part replacements.

To improve sanitation and safety, the facility is implementing a regular inspection and cleaning schedule for kitchen and dining hall drains and grease traps. Security screws are being reinstalled where needed, and deep cleaning of kitchen floors is underway to meet health and safety standards. Inmate workers are being trained to clean stairwells in living areas, and staff will assist or contract remediation services for areas not accessible to inmates.

HVAC maintenance is being scheduled annually to ensure proper ventilation and air quality throughout the facility. ADA compliance is being reviewed across all doorways, entrances, hallways, and living areas to ensure accessibility and alignment with ACA standards for reasonable accommodation.

The facility continues to maintain high standards of cleanliness, with inmate workers assigned to daily sanitation duties. No signs of pests or rodents were observed during the inspection, and fly traps remain clear and effective.

We are proud of the vocational and educational programming offered at Nottoway Correctional Center, including HVAC, horticulture, data communications, ABE, GED, and reentry preparation. These initiatives support inmate rehabilitation and successful reintegration into the community.

VADOC remains committed to continuous improvement and appreciates OSIG's recognition of the facility's professionalism and responsiveness. We will continue to implement enhancements where needed while upholding the standards reflected in OSIG's Tier III classification.

OSIG appreciates the assistance provided by the Department of Corrections during this inspection. Please contact me with any questions at 804-625-3255 or corrine.louden@osig.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Corrine A. Louden
Chief Deputy Inspector General

cc: The Honorable John Littel, Chief of Staff to Governor Youngkin
Justin Vélez-Hagan, Deputy Chief of Staff to Governor Youngkin
Kate Stockhausen, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
Jason Miyares, Attorney General of Virginia
Senate Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services
House Committee on Public Safety
Corrections Oversight Committee
Chadwick Dotson, Director, Virginia Department of Corrections
Dave Robinson, Chief Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Corrections
Holly Cline, Chief of Staff, Virginia Department of Corrections