



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Office of the State Inspector General

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The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin,

The Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) conducted an unannounced inspection of Central Virginia Correctional Unit #13. This report includes a summary of the factors listed in *Code of Virginia* § 53.1-17.6 (B), recommendations (if applicable), safety and compliance classification, recommended timeline for the next inspection, and the Director's response to the inspection.

**Inspection Report: Central Virginia Correctional Unit #13:
January 31, 2025 at 8:19 a.m.**

Background

Central Virginia Correctional Unit #13 is a minimum security work center located in Chesterfield, Virginia. Inmates must meet certain criteria to be housed here with no conviction for murder, kidnapping/abduction, or sex offenses; inmates cannot have had any disciplinary infractions for the past two years and zero history of escape attempts. Eligible inmates are encouraged to participate in rehabilitation, reintegration programs, education, training, and employment opportunities. These programs include: Women in Recovery, Road to Success, Decision Points, Prison Fellowship, Partners in Parenting, Goal Friends, culinary arts classes, journal classes, chemical training, local community services, religious services, and prison fellowship. Employment programs include: outside work crews at Virginia Correctional Enterprises (VCE) Print Shop, Atmore Maintenance and Cafeteria, onsite facility housekeepers, inside maintenance, kitchen workers, shower technicians, and chemical technicians.

The facility can house up to 214 female inmates in A, B, C, and D housing units. At the time of the inspection 189 female inmates were housed at the facility. The facility's basement includes a visitation/intake room, dental office, medical office, chaplain services, showers, bathrooms, commissary, laundry, property room, classrooms, computer lab, law library, and a recreation room with exercise bicycles, weight machine, Zumba area, yoga mats, and several operational phones. Outdoor recreation options include: softball, basketball, and volleyball.

The facility inspection was completed with the Major, two officers, and an Institutional Program Manager. The Chief Maintenance Engineer and Human Resources Assistant were also consulted. The Superintendent was not present for the inspection due to being assigned to work the night shift that day (6 p.m. to 12 a.m.). The inspection included interviews with staff and management, observation of the prison's physical environment and daily operations, and interviews with inmates. Inspection encompassed the food services, housing areas, commissary, a recreation room, intake/release/visitation, laundry, programs/services area, administrative offices, medical and dental areas, storage area, control room, and outer perimeter.

Safety/Security

The facility has security procedures in place: a handheld metal detector, phone detection, as well as a pat down/frisk search to screen staff, inmates, and visitors. Fire extinguishers were accessible for staff and inmates throughout the facility. While the extinguishers were appropriately tagged with the most recent monthly inspection date of December 2024, the inspections for January 2025 had not been completed. The Major indicated replacement tags were ordered and pending delivery for expired tags; since the facility is currently without a Safety Officer, fire extinguisher inspections are conducted by a Safety Officer from another facility. Staff reported all cameras were functioning at the time of inspection. The Major reported cameras were checked yesterday, and all were functional at the time of inspection. The camera system can be viewed in control room and offices of the Superintendent and Chief of Security.

Staffing

As reported by staff, the facility has 44 security staff and 27 non-security staff positions. There are seven vacant security positions and five vacant non-security positions. A total of 32 staff members were working at the time of the inspection. The Human Resources Assistant reported a records/mail staff member was currently out on extended leave. Inspectors noted current staff to be knowledgeable in their areas of responsibility and responsive to questions.

Medical

Upon an inmate's intake to this facility, the medical services unit ensures each inmate's medical history is properly coded and an interview/appropriate screening is completed with the inmate to discuss medical and behavioral health needs. Medical request forms are available to inmates and a doctor is on site twice a week, a nurse practitioner is on site once a week, and a nurse is on site

24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dental services are available twice a week and a dentist was on site the day of inspection. One inmate indicated a waiting period of several weeks to be seen by a dentist and doctor. Inspectors advised doctor and dentist were on site today and recommended inmate complete a medical request form and follow proper grievance procedure to address the issue(s).

Housing

A, B, C, and D housing units were equipped with sufficient mattresses, bedding/blankets, and pillows. Inmates appeared to have appropriate and adequate clothing. Upon arrival, each inmate is provided with all necessary and appropriate clothing, bedding, and hygiene items. Each housing unit includes three clean and functional toilets and four sinks. The housing units were adequately heated according to the season, and living spaces were free from insects and rodents, but inspectors observed mouse traps in housing unit C and an insect in the cockroach family moving along the laundry room floor. Although the facility has a pest control program in place, pest control services are provided by a safety officer from the State Farm Correctional Center. The A and B housing units were equipped with five phones (only three phones were functional), one JPay kiosk, and one video visitation phone. Work orders were submitted to repair the non-working phones after discovery. Several lights were out in the basement when the inspectors arrived, but they were promptly replaced after notifying staff. There were showers located in the basement with insufficient water pressure and many showers lacked hot water. The A/B shower area showed possible mold and mildew on the ceiling, though not in the shower area or stalls. Additionally, a drain posed a tripping hazard, raising a safety concern. No inmates were housed in the cool-down cells located in the basement during the inspection.

Food Services

Meals are served in the "chow hall," which is equipped with 15 stationary tables, each seating four people. Monthly food menus are posted in the housing dorms. During lockdowns, bagged lunches are delivered to the housing units. The Food Operations Manager reported heated and insulated carts are used to transport lunches to inmates working at various vendors. Food temperature is checked both before departure and upon arrival at the destination. Compartmented trays, which were new, came with white plastic lids to cover the food as needed. Inspector observed eight inmates working and preparing lunch in the kitchen, all wearing hair nets. One inmate was observed handling a tray of bread without proper gloves, but the inmate remembered to put gloves on before touching the bread. Inspectors were present during meal service where a chicken patty sandwich, zucchini and squash, potatoes, and dessert was served.

Sanitation

Overall, the facility was clean and free of clutter in all areas. It is properly sanitized, with floors swept and mopped with detergent or germicidal agents at least once daily. Trash is removed twice daily. Common area toilets and sinks are sanitized three times daily by inmates. The

housing officer showed the inspector the cleaning supplies stored in a designated closet, and inmates have access to this supply closet to check out cleaning agents, germicide, soap, paper towels, and other necessary supplies. Inmates are responsible for following the laundry schedule and drop-off times. The facility is equipped with four large commercial washers and three large commercial dryers. The inspectors observed visible dust on the ceilings and vents throughout the housing units and shower areas; however, the Superintendent reported the facility is currently in the process of gathering quotes to have the ventilation system cleaned.

Accessibility to Complaint and Grievance Forms

Complaint and grievance forms are available and accessible to inmates outside the housing units, located in the officer's area. Forms available included: Facility Request Form for inmates to request appointments, information, or other services, Written Complaint Form and Regular Grievance Form with instructions for filing, Property Disposition Form, and Commissary Form. In the same general area and accessible to inmates was a grievance box for form deposit. Inmates are encouraged to speak directly to staff for emergency requests and informal complaints processing. The complaint and grievance forms are not available through the inmate's tablets. Forms are retrieved from the boxes daily, with the medical box being checked twice a day. OSIG has not received any complaints regarding this facility since the establishment of the OSIG Ombudsman Unit.

Additional Information

The information below was provided by the Superintendent subsequent to the inspection:

Staffing: Currently, the facility has 44 security staff and 27 non-security staff positions.

Number of staff who received disciplinary actions in the past year: One staff member received disciplinary action in 2024.

Average number of service years for security staff: An average of 8.7 years of service.

Most recent lockdown: There were eight lockdowns in the last three years. Most recent was July 17, 2024 (planned) and October 18, 2024 (unplanned).

Number of physical assaults at the facility in the last year: One inmate on inmate assault.

Number of sexual assaults at the facility in the last year: 0.

Number of video visitation requests at the facility in the last year: 1,214.

Number of video visitation denials at the facility in the last year: 0.

Number of in-person visitation requests at the facility in the last year: 361.

Number of in-person visitation denials at the facility in the last year: 0.

Following the inspection, the Superintendent shared that a sample of the mold-like substance was collected on February 3, 2025, and sent to Haynes Microbial Consulting. The results, received on February 4, 2025, indicated "No Fungi Detected."

The Superintendent stated that on February 18, 2025, additional testing was conducted which included an air sample and two swab samples of the A/B housing unit shower area. The indoor air sample resulted in a negative elevated level; however, the two-swab test did indicate a presence of mold on the ceiling and walls of the A/B housing unit shower area. The results showed a light presence of Cladosporium spores and some possible active Mycelium growth in the ceiling sample and the wall sample contained a higher presence of Cladosporium, but less Mycelium growth.

To remediate the mold, the facility took the following actions: On February 20, 2025, the A/B showers were iodized using the Purtab system by an Environmental Specialist from the Department of Corrections Environmental Management Unit. After drying, this process eliminated all spores. The area was then cleaned and sanitized with a powdered bleach and water solution before the ceiling was repainted.

Key Findings

- Overall, both inmates and staff seemed satisfied with the environment at the facility.
- Inmates have numerous opportunities to engage in work details, activities, and programming.
- There are health and safety concerns in the shower and housing areas, with issues related to ventilation and pest/rodent control.
- This facility had zero inmate deaths and zero over-detentions in the last year.
- Inmates are provided with operational phones and tablets to stay in contact with family and friends.
- Perimeter fencing was newly installed around the facility.

Inspector Comments

This inspection is not intended to assess compliance with the legislative or regulatory requirements, nor assess compliance with Corrections policies; though both may be considered where relevant.

Central Correctional Unit #13 staff were helpful and assisted by answering the inspectors' questions. Staff were courteous and open to coordinating a tour of the entire facility.

Recommendations

Overall, the lighting throughout the facility was appropriate; inspectors noted several four-foot fluorescent lights that were non-functioning. This was reported to the Chief Maintenance Engineer, who immediately began replacing the lights.

The apparent dust accumulation on the ceiling and ventilation system should be cleaned to prevent further buildup while awaiting the completion of the procurement process.

Additional facility repairs are needed including: replacing or securing missing and hanging ceiling tiles in the housing unit, addressing the appearance of mold-like substance, water pressure, removing the unutilized curtain rod in the shower area, and tripping hazard in the shower area, removing or securing loose wires in the housing dorms, removing the metal strap hanging in the laundry room, addressing the leak in kitchen ceiling and ventilation system above where food is served, and improving the drainage around the facility to prevent flooding in the basement.

Facility Classification

Tier III - The facility has adequate conditions of confinement and programming options requiring an inspection within the next 36 months.

DOC Response

The VADOC appreciates the thorough inspection of Central Virginia Correctional Unit #13 and is proud of the good work being done at that facility, which is evinced throughout this report. We welcome the opportunity to work with OSIG to identify areas of improvement and have already addressed the recommendations outlined above.

Lighting: The non-functioning fluorescent lights have been replaced.

Dust accumulation: On February 7, 2025, the facility's inside maintenance crew completed high-level cleaning to address the dust on the vents and ceilings. Routine high-level cleaning of the vents and ceilings is scheduled to take place monthly.

Facility repairs

- **Ceiling tiles:** A ceiling tile replacement project had been scheduled prior to the date of this inspection. Supplies to replace the tiles were received and the project began on March 26, 2025.
- **Showers:** As noted above, the facility conducted additional testing for Cladosporium/Mycelium in the shower areas. The A/B showers were iodized, which eliminated all spores. The area was then cleaned and sanitized with a powdered bleach and water solution. The noted water issues in the showers have also been resolved by replacing the mixing valves (water temperature) and metering valves (water pressure). The unutilized curtain rod in the shower area was removed on the date of the inspection. The tripping hazard in the shower area has been eliminated by the replacement of the drain cover screws.
- **Water issues:** Water pressure issues have been resolved by replacing metering valves in the showers. Water temperatures have increased due to a replacement of the mixing valves.

- **Kitchen ceiling:** The leak in the kitchen ceiling had been scheduled for repair prior to the date of this inspection, and these repairs were completed on March 10, 2025.

The facility also removed the loose wires that were noted in the housing dorms, and the hanging metal strap that was noted in the laundry room.

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

Sincerely,



Michael C. Westfall, CPA
State 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 of Corrections Operations, Virginia Department of Corrections
Holly Cline, Chief of Staff, Virginia Department of Corrections