

Custody Investigative Services Unit (CISU)



YEAR IN REVIEW 2008

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CUSTODY OPERATIONS DIVISION

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Custody Investigative Services Unit (CISU) is the umbrella name for Operation Safe Jails (OSJ), Jail Investigations Unit (JIU), Custody K-9, and the Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU). CISU is responsible for investigating crimes occurring within any of our county jails, court lock-ups, and Court Services Transportation (CST) buses. Additionally, they gather intelligence on the estimated daily inmate population of 20,000. After July 2007, OSJ and JIU became CISU, allowing improvement in information sharing and intelligence gathering.

OPERATION SAFE JAILS:

The primary role of OSJ is gang intelligence gathering with the objective of preventing facility violence between rival gangs, inmates of different races, and the influence of prison gangs on our inmate population. OSJ provides facility and division executives with updated information regarding ongoing trends which affect day-to-day operations of the facilities; thereby, allowing executives to make informed decision. OSJ is recognized as a leader in providing gang intelligence to the law enforcement community.

OSJ maintains contact with local, state, federal agencies, and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). To accomplish their mission, OSJ uses a variety of databases to identify, track, and monitor high profile inmates, such as, "Shotcallers," (institutional lingo for an inmate who assumes authority on other inmates and runs a dorm, module, pod, or facility) and prison gang members. Intelligence is gathered from a variety of sources, such as Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), law enforcement officers (local, state, and federal), citizens, and cryptic intelligence (written documents). Over the past years, OSJ has recovered numerous jail made weapons, significant amounts of heroin, cocaine, and drug paraphernalia.

On a daily basis, OSJ personnel identify problematic inmates. The identified problematic inmates are then dispersed throughout our custodial facilities in order to maintain harmony. This has assisted in preventing dorm disturbances and in some incidents, full scale riots. Finally, OSJ seeks to protect inmates marked for assault or death within the Los Angeles County jail system. OSJ has a roll-out policy which further enhances the Department's investigative ability by providing thorough and timely investigations.

GANG INTELLIGENCE UNIT:

The new Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU) was designed with the goal of enhancing liaison between the CDCR and CISU. The GIU is responsible for monitoring the activity of known or suspected members of organized prison gangs. They provide prison gang intelligence and liaison with Major Crimes Bureau detectives, CDCR personnel, and federal agencies throughout California. GIU targets active prison gang members returning to Los Angeles County Jail from California's Level-Four prisons. GIU's other duties include the identification of prison gang members who are arrested on the streets and booked on new charges.

JAIL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT:

The JIU investigates all crimes, other than crimes handled by Homicide Bureau that are committed by inmates within Custody Operations Division, Correctional Services Division, Court Services Division, and on Correctional Services Transportation Bureau buses traversing Los Angeles County. JIU teams are now centralized to provide better accountability in communications between the detectives, OSJ, and to assist the entire team with follow-up.

CUSTODY K-9:

Custody K-9 personnel continually conduct random searches of all Custody Operations Division facilities. The canines are certified to detect methamphetamine, heroin, other opiates, marijuana, cocaine, and homemade alcoholic beverages, "pruno." The K-9's have recovered approximately 327 gallons of "pruno" and over 60 narcotic related findings within the past year.

