

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**  
**CAMP BARRETT INSPECTION REPORT**  
**2007**

**Facility Name:** CAMP BARRETT

**Inspection Date:** 12/17/2007

**Superintendent:** James A. Seal  
**Address:** 21077 Lyons Valley Road  
Alpine, CA 9190

**Last Inspection Date:** 12/21/2006  
**Telephone Number:** (619) 401-4900  
**Fax:** (619) 401-4921

**Type of Facility:** Juvenile Camp

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:**  
Honorable Susan Huguenor

**Staff Interviewed:**  
James Seal, Superintendent

**Facility Capacity:**  
Population on inspection date: 150  
Average population: 150

**Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:**  
Steve Wiley

**Commission Inspection Team:**  
Richard Mitchell  
Steve Wiley

**Comments and Recommendations:**

This visit was abbreviated due to a major sewage problem caused by a broken pipe in the newly installed septic system. A private contractor is responsible for correcting the problems. Barrett staff responded quickly and appropriately. Evacuation was planned, but became unnecessary. The system was up and operating by day's end and clean-up was accomplished.

The recent Harris fire which approached Barrett within approximately two miles demonstrates the vulnerability of this remote mountain location and the necessity in planning well for emergencies. The progress of this fire provided advance notice for evacuation. It was supported well by the Sheriff's Department who accompanied caravans to other secured facilities. The evacuation did require the use of some private vehicles. Emergency communications were lacking due to equipment fire damage to telephone wires and cell towers, a major problem that was resolved by using two-way radios and other measures.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. New hard surface flooring in the office and Recreation room facilities.
2. Filling of the full-time psychologist position.
3. Addition and replacement of old vans and buses to support emergencies and program transportation.
4. Establishment of a reliable emergency communication capability.

**SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:**

**Number of Suicides:** 0  
**Number of Deaths from other causes:** 0

**Number of Attempted Suicides:** 0  
**Number of Escapes:** 6

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**Number of attempted escapes:** 3 Remote location deters attempts. All escapees were apprehended. Escapees are terminated from the program and referred back to the Court for reassignment.

**Date of Last Fire Drill:** Internal fire drills twice monthly.

**Local Inspections**

There are many inspections, mostly conducted annually. They include the Grand Jury, County Fire Marshall, County Health Dept., State Correction Standards Authority, and Juvenile Justice Commission.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?**

No.

**Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?**

No.

**STAFFING**

**Staff-to-Child Ratio:**

Awake: 1 Staff to 15 wards, at minimum.  
Sleeping: 1 Staff to 30 wards.

**Communication in Language minor can understand?**

Primary communication is in English. Approximately 60% of wards are Hispanic. English/Spanish bi-lingual staff are on board.

**Diversity of Staff:**

Appropriate staff diversity on board.

**Staff/Minor Interactions:**

Few interactions observed on this visit. Past experience noted relaxed, comfortable, and non-threatening atmosphere.

**Staff Interviews – Comments:**

A positive, supportive atmosphere was noted in this and past visits. This facility is preferred by wards, and their stay is dependent on positive actions and attitudes. A structured program is noted.

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**CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS**

**Lawns, Playing fields, Blacktop, Asphalt and Other:**

Facility is located in East County. Topography is mountainous, with extreme temperatures. Grounds are clean and well maintained. The ball field is in poor condition due to gopher holes and lack of water in this location. A Building and Grounds ROP program (Regional Occupational Program) is utilized for improvements and maintenance. It is graded periodically; however, there is no turf.

**EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**General condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters and etc.:**

Exterior conditions reflect age of the buildings with appropriate maintenance programs in place.

**VEHICLES**

**Condition:**

Some Camp vehicles are older with high mileage and are difficult to maintain. Additional buses would assist off-camp activities and provide more reliable emergency transportation.

**INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**Walls, paint, floors, drains, plumbing fixtures, air vents, windows, etc.:**

Interiors were not inspected due to the serious sewage problem experienced this day. Past inspections have noted interiors were clean and functional; however, they reflected the age and long-term use of the facilities. There is no graffiti. They are well ventilated with proper climate control. The wards have improved the dorms. The school buildings are much newer.

**Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?**

Supplies are kept in separate locations. Wards are not allowed access without supervision.

**Weapons Locker Location:**

Weapons are not allowed in this facility.

**Recreation/Sports Equipment:**

There are open air exercise areas. Basketball courts are satisfactory. The ball field problems were previously noted. The Recreation room is closed due to old, moldy carpeting that needs replacement.

**Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?**

Entrances, hallways and dorms are properly maintained and free of obstructions. The age and original construction of the office spaces provide limited space for current office equipment requirements.

**Court Holding Area:**

Not applicable to Camp Barrett.

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**Sleeping rooms/dormitories:**

The dorms are clean and orderly with proper climate control (heat & air). Wards have made some physical improvements to these areas.

**Beds:**

Bunk beds - minimum 12" off the floor. Lockers are under the bunks.

**Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?**

Wards are allowed limited personal possessions, generally correspondence and toiletries. Reading material is available.

**Graffiti Present?**

None noted. This facility is diligent in prohibiting all gang indicators.

**Ample blankets?**

Sufficient blankets are provided.

**Study Area:**

Study areas are encouraged in the school buildings, not the dorms.

**Adequate Lighting?**

Lighting is appropriate.

**Temperature:**

Primary buildings are equipped with operational air conditioning and central heating.

**ORIENTATION OF MINORS**

**Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?**

Upon arrival to the facility, wards are introduced to the policies, rules, and procedures by the staff. Further indoctrination takes place during the intake procedure and when wards are assigned to dorms. Many of the policies, rules, and goals are conspicuously posted in dorms and study areas.

**Are rules and grievance procedures posted?**

Yes, grievance forms are available in dorms in well-marked dispensers. Grievance procedures are included in the indoctrination process.

**Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?**

These procedures are understood and utilized by wards.

**Minors Interviewed – Comments**

There were no minors interviewed during this inspection.

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**MEALS/NUTRITION**

**Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?**

This area was not inspected due to the sewage problem. In past inspections it was clean and well maintained. Knives and chemicals are secured by the staff. Wards are supervised at all times.

**Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained.**

Wards working in the kitchen are enrolled in the Culinary Arts ROP program.

**Are meals served or cafeteria style?**

Serving is cafeteria style, on trays. Dining hall seating is assigned.

**Are minors permitted to converse during meals?**

Conversation is permitted after wards are seated.

**Is Staff present and supervising?**

Staff are present and oversee the meal period.

**Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?**

Menus are prepared weekly and posted.

**Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?**

Food service is ample and nutritious. Cook-chill meals are prepared by the Sheriff's Centralized Food Service for breakfast and dinner. Lunch is prepared fresh onsite by local staff and the Culinary Arts Program.

**Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?**

Food sharing is not permitted.

**Length of time allowed for eating?**

Normal mealtime is 20 minutes.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS**

**Appearance?**

Wards are neat and clean. Uniform type clothing is clean and does not show excessive wear. Standards are maintained that prevent gang and teen-type fads.

**Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?**

Showers are in the dorm areas. Facilities are communal, with minimum privacy which facilitates staff monitoring. There are few, if any, assaults in the shower area.

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**Condition of clothing – Does clothing fit? Is it appropriate to weather?**

As noted, clothing is uniform-like, and appropriate to the conditions.

**PROGRAMS**

**Recreation/Exercise – types and amount each day.**

Two hours recreation is provided each day -- one during school, and one in the afternoon. Additional time is provided during the weekend. Intramural sports programs are held on Saturday.

**Access to Religious Services?**

Religious services are scheduled weekly. Protestant and Catholic services are available.

**Camp Barrett Programming:**

Programs include Criminal Conduct; Substance Abuse Treatment; Aggression Therapy; Life Skills (self-esteem, self-improvement, goal setting); Positive Peer Leadership; and Conflict Management. AA and NA meetings are available. Community Service is handled through the Red Cross and County Operations Dept.

**Volunteer Program:**

Volunteer programs are limited because of the remote location.

**Counseling Programs**

A full-time Drug counselor has been on-site to assess wards for about 9 mos. Three week teen/violence programs are held quarterly. A full-time psychologist has been available until recently when the position was left unfilled by the County. This is an important position assisting the Staff with behavioral and control issues

**Parenting Classes**

A six week class was held on a trial basis this past October. It was well received, but further classes are dependent upon funding.

**Vocational Classes:**

ROP programs are held for Firefighting, Culinary Arts, and Building & Grounds Maintenance. These programs lead to certification required for future employment.

**DISCIPLINE OF MINORS**

**Frequency and type:**

Three levels of discipline are utilized at Camp Barrett. Staff reports the frequency of infractions is reflective of the population and consistent with other juvenile institutions. The first involves verbal commands, and the possible loss of certain activities. The second results in an orange vest indicating disruptive behavior. The third rules violations results in extended time, removal, or program termination. The Staff does not touch the wards. Staff carries O.C. spray for breaking up fights, and for personal defense.

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**TELEPHONE**

**Access:**

Telephones are located in the courtyard area adjacent to the administration building. They are payphones and calls are made on a "collect" basis.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?**

Postage is scanned for contraband. Correspondence is not read, but is not confidential.

**VISITING**

**Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?**

Visitation is held on Sundays and major holidays from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, and are held in an outdoor picnic area outside of the Camp perimeter. Authorized visitors are parents, grandparents, legal guardians, and others pursuant to Court orders. Small sodas and playing cards may be brought, but nothing else is allowed. Special visitations are held on Saturdays. Wards are searched upon returning to the Camp perimeter.

**Have all minors had visits?**

Not all wards receive visitors, primarily due to the remote location, lack of public/private transportation, and visitors' immigration status. Remote locations represent similar problems in other County facilities such as East Mesa, Campo, and George Bailey.

**SCHOOL**

**Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions.**

Barrett High School is administered by Juvenile Court Schools through the County School District. Curriculum is designed for male juveniles 15-19 ages. GED completion rates and scores are among the highest in the County.

**Number of minors in school/per classroom.**

All wards who have not graduated attend school. There are approximately 16 students per class.

**Number of Minors on independent study:**

None.

**Atmosphere of classroom:**

Classes are scheduled for 50 minutes, five days a week, 8:00am to 2:15pm.

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**Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.**

There are 20 computers available, an improvement over prior visits. A new pre-fab, modular classroom is being provided for use as a library/resource center.

**Are minors required to do homework?**

Quiet time is provided in the dorms, but homework is not generally assigned.

**Number of minors not attending. Reason:**

None.

**Relationship between the Barrett High School and Camp Barrett staff.**

Staff indicates excellent relationship, but observations were not made due to the sewage emergency.

**MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Medical and mental health services are provided by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG). The Nurses station is staffed by RNs on a 7-day/week basis. A psychiatrist comes in weekly to do medical evaluations. The psychologist position mentioned in the recommendations is not a psychiatrist, an entirely different position. Nursing staff administers and records psychotropic medication as well as tending to typical non life-threatening first aid and illnesses. A medical doctor visits once a week. An onsite psychologist was onsite daily until October when the position was left vacant due to a personnel transfer.

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