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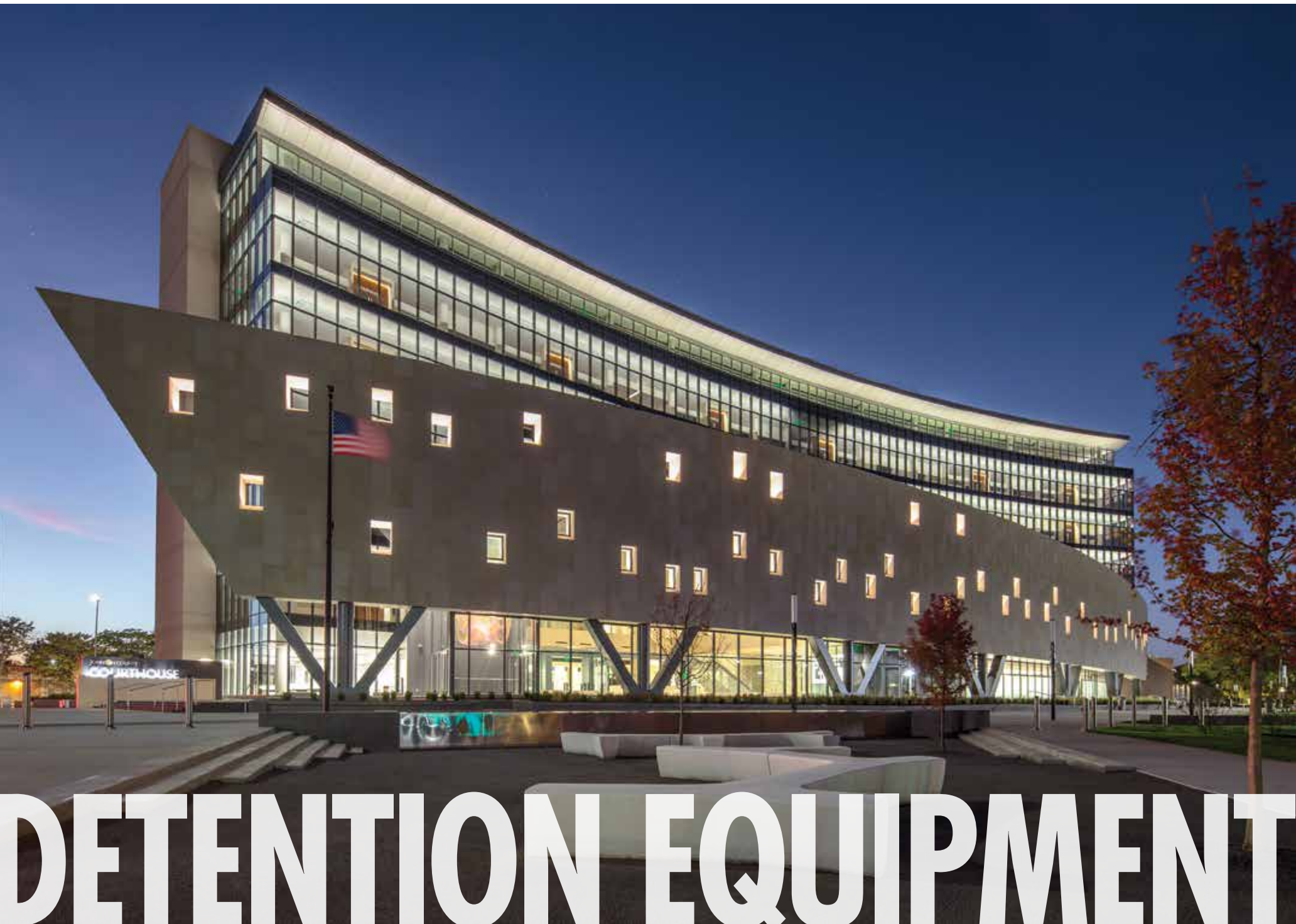
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# CorrectionalNEWS

design+construction+operations

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 23, NUMBER 7



## DETENTION EQUIPMENT

- **Top Trends**
- **Industry Insights**
- **DEC Roundup**





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**Exterior of the Johnson County Courthouse, Olathe, Kan.**

Photo Credit: © Bill Timmerman

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California Governor Gavin Newsom recently appointed **Heather Bowlds** as director of the **CDCR Division of Juvenile Justice**. Bowlds had served as DJJ Deputy Director of Operations and Programs since 2016, and Acting Director since 2019.

She has also served in several other positions at DJJ since 2004. Those positions include Associate Director of Mental Health and Sexual Behavior



Bowlds

Treatment Program Coordinator, Senior Psychologist, Acting Senior Psychologist Supervisor, and Clinical Psychologist. She was a Psychological Associate at the California Youth Authority from 2002 to 2004.

Bowlds earned a Doctor of Psychology degree in forensic psychology from the Alliant International University California School of Professional Psychology. This

position requires Senate confirmation.

Deputy Warden **Curtis Moffat** was recently promoted to warden at Wyoming Honor Farm (WHF) by the **Wyoming Department of Corrections**.

Moffat has served as deputy warden for Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution (WMCI) since October 2016. He has been employed in the field of corrections since January 1997.

He began his career with the State of Nebraska as a correctional officer after completing his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Chadron State College. He worked at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in a variety of settings from minimum custody dormitories to death row as an officer, caseworker, case manager and unit manager, prior to being hired as a unit supervisor at WMCI in late 2009.

Moffat was promoted to Major of Correctional Officers in October 2014 and served as the chief of security until his promotion to deputy warden at that facility. In both capacities, he was instrumental in WMCI being fully accredited and re-accredited by the American Correctional Association.

The **Wyoming Department of Corrections** (WDOC) recently named **Eddie Wilson** as Prison Division administrator. Wilson, who joined the department in 2006, will take on the role of overseeing the wardens of the five prisons in Wyoming.



Wilson

Wilson served as warden at the Wyoming Medium Correctional Institution in Torrington since July 2016. Prior to this, he served as warden at the Wyoming State Penitentiary in Rawlins from 2009 to 2016.

Before coming to Wyoming, Wilson served in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for 26 years. He began his career as a correctional officer. Over the course of his career, he has worked at all levels of correctional facilities from maximum to minimum custody and in addition to his security background led a number of program-oriented programs.

The **Wyoming Department of Corrections** recently announced that Wyoming Honor Farm (WHF) Warden **Michael Harlow** is the new warden at the Wyoming State Penitentiary (WSP),

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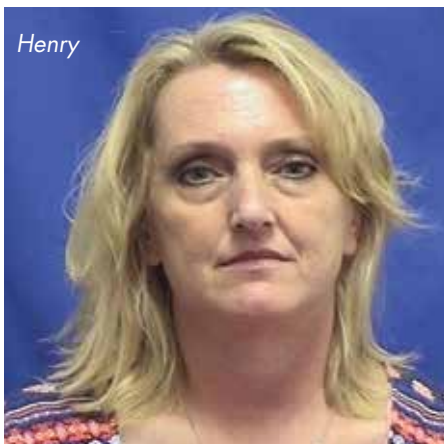
located in Rawlins.

Warden Harlow joined the Wyoming Department of Corrections in December 2016 as the Deputy Warden for WSP. He was promoted to Warden at WHF in October 2019. He relocated to Wyoming in 2014 and worked as a ranch manager before starting with the WDOC. Warden Harlow has 35 years of work experience in corrections, including 31 years in Pennsylvania.



Harlow began his career in corrections as a correctional officer for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. He was promoted through the ranks of that agency to Superintendent (Warden) and served in that role for more than five years before taking on regional responsibility. He had the privilege of serving as Acting Deputy Secretary in Pennsylvania for several months and served as the Western Region Supervising Superintendent for one-and-a-half years. Harlow is a member of the American Correctional Association, held a Certified Corrections Executive certification and is trained as an ACA auditor.

Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Executive Armond Budish recently announced the appointment of **Michelle Henry** as **Cuyahoga County** warden. Henry most recently served as Correction Warden Assistant I at the Lorain Correctional



Institution in Grafton, Ohio, where she conducted investigations, served as a liaison for outside law enforcement agencies, and conducted security inspections and surveillance.

From 2008 to 2015, Henry served as Correction Specialist at the Lorain Correctional Institution. In this

position she supervised inmate housing units, facilitated inmate programs, daily activities and safety and sanitation inspections. Prior to that, Henry served as Corrections Captain at the Lorain Correctional Institution. In this role, she was focused on prison management, security, scheduling, and evaluations

and served as a correction lieutenant supervisor.

Added Cuyahoga County Sheriff David G. Schilling, "In her role as warden, Ms. Henry will be crucial to our commitment to continue to improve the jail, especially during this very trying and difficult pandemic."

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# Insights and Observations

## Interview with a DEC Expert

By CN Staff

Tim Clifford, president of U.S. Security Systems, Inc., recently took some time out of his busy slate to share some insights and opinions with

Correctional News on current trends within the DEC industry.

**Q:** What are some of the top trends today in detention equipment within your company's area of focus?

One of the trends we are seeing is an increase in renovation work. Several of our largest projects over the past several years and leading into next year are renovations at the state and local level. Much of the work we are

seeing is related to "hardening" projects. Facility owners are looking for ways to repurpose lower security facilities to a higher level of security. There has been a need to upgrade control systems from older systems to more modern touch screens in conjunction with these 'hardening' projects. Also, we have seen an uptick in federal work, both new construction and renovation. The combination of renovation and federal work has helped to offset a slight downturn in new construction projects at the state and local level.

**Q:** How has the ongoing pandemic influenced this section of the corrections industry and your firm?

The biggest impact we have seen from COVID-19 are increased material lead times and delays to job schedules due to facility shutdowns. Primarily, the facility shutdowns have been isolated to renovation of existing facilities. These delays have caused a backlog in installation as facilities have just started to re-open to contractors. Unfortunately, you cannot make up for lost time, so we have had to adapt to keep jobs on schedule. New construction projects proceeded better in terms of delays related to COVID-19, other than extended lead times related to materials. We have also seen increases in delays of shipments from our suppliers due the pandemic, primarily from temporary shutdowns at manufacturing facilities and COVID-19 related workforce issues.

**Q:** Have you worked on any big projects recently or released any new equipment of note?

We recently completed several large multi-year renovation projects with different state Departments of Corrections. We currently have several federal courthouse projects centered around new construction. While new construction has been limited, we have been fortunate to secure several new construction projects at the county level in several states.

**Q:** How do you think the detention equipment market has evolved over the past decade or so?

There have been some 'lean' years in the past decade. Primarily 2014 and 2015. The recovery centered around renovation work, which remains a large part of today's market. One of the biggest changes has been the consolidation of manufacturers. This has created in some instances, fewer available vendors and longer lead times.



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**Q: What do you think the near future holds for the state of detention equipment contracting?**

Business has been on the increase over the past few years and currently does not show signs of letting up. As with all industries there is some uncertainty that comes with an election year and what kind of impact the results of the election will have on our business. There is a definite need for expertise in our field of work. Using an experienced detention equipment contractor helps to ensure that the owner gets the right product, installed properly, and that the product will serve it's intended purpose. Having that expertise and knowledge helps to lower upfront as well as long term operating costs for the owner. Continued collaboration with owners, architects, and general contractors helps to highlight the value that DEC's bring to the table.

The Oldham County Detention Center in Kentucky is just one of many facilities that have benefited from U.S. Security Systems' expertise and services over the years.



Photo Credit: US Security Systems, Inc.

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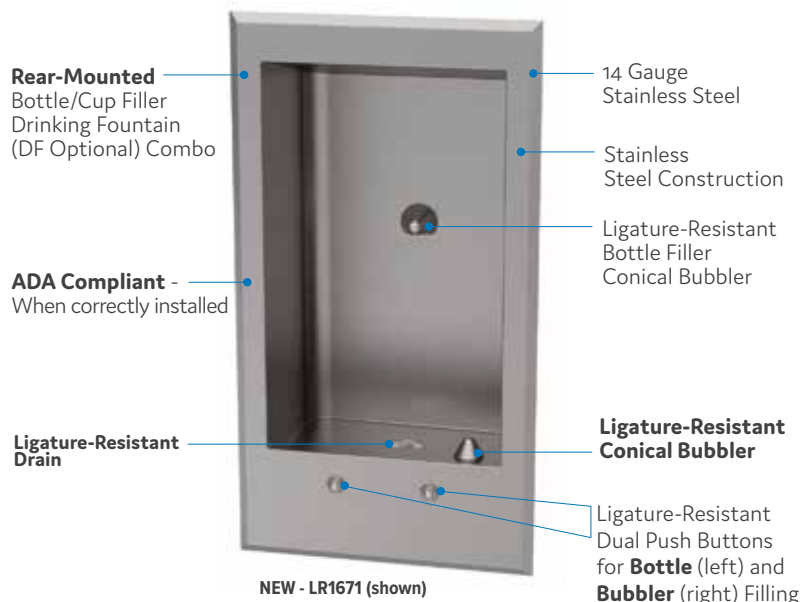
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# Flagstaff Municipal Courthouse Makes Big Debut

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz.—Kinney Construction Services, Inc. (KCS), the City of Flagstaff, and Design Partner CGL Companies (CGL) celebrated a major milestone in November with the grand opening of the new City of Flagstaff Municipal Court Facility. Located in downtown Flagstaff, the three-story, 40,000-square-foot facility respectfully ties into the historic architecture of downtown and creates a new center of civic life for the Municipal Court and the City.

The new facility replaces a pair of obsolete, functionally inadequate buildings and capitalizes on an underutilized City-owned parcel for efficient and creative infill. The new building also houses the City Prosecutor's Office. The Municipal Court's first day of operation was October 19th, 2020, approximately two years after design started. Sustainability was an important factor for the City during design, and the new facility is the first Green Globes building in northern Arizona (anticipating Three Green Globes),

with the focus being on materials that are durable and low maintenance, and systems that are energy efficient.

"The Flagstaff Municipal Courts project presented a unique opportunity to create a new state-of-the-art facility that seamlessly blends into the historical context of downtown Flagstaff," CGL Senior Vice President Enrique Maciá, lead designer and architect on the project, told Correctional News. "Our design team, working closely with the Owner and the Users, met the complex challenge of providing five courtrooms and hearing rooms, holding areas and prisoner sallyport, space for Court Administration and Prosecutor, a jury assembly room, judge's chambers and support space, as well as secure parking on a fairly small urban site on the northern edge of downtown."

Maciá added that the new building is designed to create a positive and welcoming user experience for the citizens of Flagstaff, including a gracious two-story entry lobby and public spaces that are flooded with



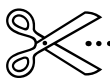
Photo Credit: CGL

abundant natural light and ample views.

The project was procured using a Design-Build contract delivery method, with the contractor and architect performing under a shared contract. The KCS-CGL team harnessed the benefits of that approach by fostering

a collaborative atmosphere and establishing shared goals from the earliest stages of the project.

Local trade partners and building materials were also prioritized to the greatest extent possible, which added to the overall quality of the project.



## Correctional design+construction+operations NEWS

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# What Keeps Me Up at Night

## Planning, Design and Training for Emergency Operations

By Greg Offner

Almost 11 years ago I penned an article for *Correctional News* which described how some of our most

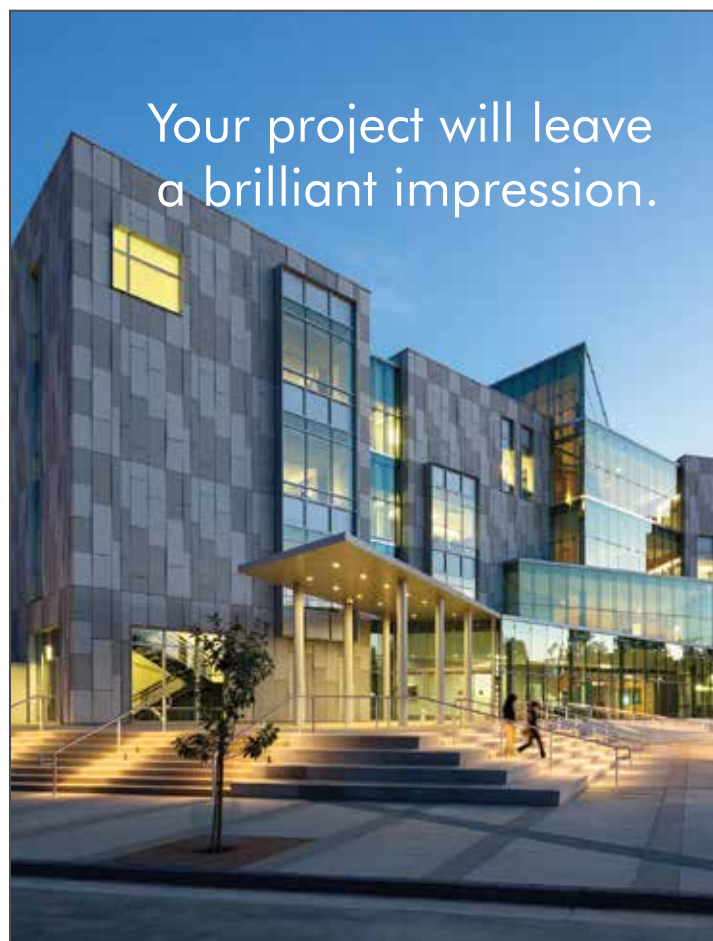
notable prison uprisings provided planners, designers and program implementers' valuable lessons and drove prison reform. These lessons helped when examining what a secure

facility should be to be safe. Some of these events created disruptions whose outcomes turned into industry best practices in emergency management situation planning. I still believe today's

designs are substantially safer and more efficient than the designs of say 1970, which mostly focused on confinement. Some of us are sleeping better now than we were then!

Those newer designs were intended to minimize risk, enhance correctional staff safety, as well as an improved level of care and custody, security and comfort for inmates and staff alike. Looking back, did they really?

Current designs also take into consideration inmate supervision, observation, and lower staff to inmate ratios. Additionally, today's designs enhance inmate movement avenues



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to programs, meals, medical services, support initiatives like the 2003 enactment of PREA, all while trying to make a hard environment seem more normative. As designs developed, we added cameras for security and aid in deterring assaults, added staff training and break areas, more daylight and fresh air all in order to create more healthy, rehabilitative environment. Perhaps the biggest improvement to today's facilities is the consideration for emergency management. We like to believe prisons of today are better equipped to deal with catastrophic occurrences like COVID-19, particularly in relation to disturbances and disturbance control. However, we are not there, still have a ways to go; and it is causing many sleepless nights.

### The Issues Continue

There are several notable incidents that have occurred throughout our history which have brought about meaningful reform in prison operations

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As the justice system continues to evolve in sync with the changes we see in our society, there is a consensus view that detention ought to represent a last resort solution in the justice system. Often, people are engaged in the system due to mental illness, addiction or other issues in their lives that have put them in bad circumstances.

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Design Build with Bell Construction. Image courtesy of BELL and Aerial Innovations Southeast



and facility design. The most recent disturbance of note was the August 1, 2020 uprising at the Ware State Prison in Waycross, Ga. To demonstrate how effective the GA DOC emergency operations training is, the incident began that Saturday around 10:40 PM, and by 1 AM Sunday, the next day, the situation was under control. Two officers and three inmates were injured, none of the injuries life threatening. Well done GA DOC. What planners and designers learned was windows that were broken during the disturbance were thought to be outside a secure

On March 1st and 2nd, 2018 on the Cheyenne Unit at the Arizona State Prison Complex in Yuma, a disturbance ensued after corrections officers allegedly used excessive force to subdue an intoxicated inmate. The uprising is said to have begun when inmates who witnessed the officers assaulting the prisoner intervened. At least 600 prisoners participated in an uprising in which they attacked officers, set fires, threw rocks, attacked prison infrastructure and broke into the healthcare unit.

One inmate was shot and killed

direction 'bring all of the ammunition,' and once the ammunition was on the Unit, it was delivered to the connecting corridor and 'whoever needed it, took it.'"

### There Is More To Do

Sadly, we haven't progressed very far from one of the most significant prison riots that occurred at the Attica State Prison almost 50 years ago. The Attica riots resulted in the deaths of forty-three individuals. There were many stories about why this uprising occurred. Rumored motives behind the

enough. Uprisings continued.

In October 1989, inmates rioted at SCI Camp Hill outside Harrisburg, Pa. 138 correctional staff and 70 inmates were injured in the riots. 17 people were held hostage and almost half of the prison's 31 buildings were destroyed. Within the first several minutes of the riot prisoners set at least four major fires, which destroyed the food service area, the prison hospital, a gate house and part of an industrial building. The inmates had access to tools and in the first round of rioting used those tools to remove the metal housings over the sliding cell door locks. PA Senate and House investigations cited a multitude of explanations for the riots, including overcrowding, understaffing, a militant group of prisoners, mixing violent and nonviolent inmates, lack of leadership and poor construction. After the riots, the Commonwealth spent millions to repair and improve the prison. The result of this riot caused widespread changes to DOC facility operations and facility construction practices. Do you see the common themes?

In 1993, inmates at Lucasville (Southern Ohio Correctional Facility) rioted and took over the facility for 11 days. The main causes were reportedly overcrowding and mismanagement of the facility. Many also cite the discontent among the general population with the prison authorities, who were going to force Muslim prisoners to undergo tuberculosis vaccinations, a violation of their religious beliefs. Investigations conducted after the riot found that the gangs were collaborating to murder inmates accused of being informants. Ten individuals lost their life during this riot. The lessons learned at Lucasville generated the development of improved communications systems and improved classification practices. Regardless, we are still tossing and turning at night because we know we haven't done enough.

In February 2006, fighting among the prisoners at the Pitchess facility (LA County, Calif.) resulted in over 100 inmate injuries. One inmate lost his life. It is said the riot was caused by racial tensions and gang activity. There is an industry best practice which developed as a result of the Pitchess facility riot: the size of recreations yards. The experts in population management will tell you, "big yard big politics, small yard small politics." Smaller recreation yards in California facilities are reducing violent events. Regrettably, few other states took the advice and changed their recreation formats.

### Reform is a Journey

Reform must include consideration for BOTH regular and emergency operations in every area of a facility where inmates are present. This is a critical factor in ensuring a safe and

## Reform must include consideration for BOTH regular and emergency operations in every area of a facility where inmates are present.

area, when in fact the inmates did have access to the area. Lesson, better input by prison operations to designers.

What I understand was the "cause" of the disturbance was a series of unfortunate events. An inmate death at the hands of another inmate weeks before, and a rise in COVID cases among inmates and staff. Anxiety and fear cause tremendous human friction. How can we get control of the fear and anxiety to eliminate friction? One-word answer—reform.

during the riot and 26 prisoners were injured. During the uprising, guards armed themselves with shotguns and other weapons. An executive summary of the uprising by the Arizona Department of Corrections stated that "communication failures" led to the "unregulated delivery and issuance of weapons and munitions including 00 Buckshot." The report continued, stating, "During Assessment Team interviews and review of reports, staff reported going to the Armory with the

riot included preexisting racial tensions, facility overcrowding, and that the inmates believed they had been denied rights and conditions to which they were entitled. Regardless of the cause, the result of these riots created well needed prison reform. The reforms included better preparedness in the form of training, better dispute resolution protocols for inmate grievances, conducting conflict resolution sessions and improved access to the facility should a disturbance ensue. It wasn't



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secure facility. Every agency, warden, or superintendent has a standardized Emergency Operations Plan in effect at all times and these need to be revisited. Traditionally, these plans are developed by several stakeholders in the secure custody operations and are constantly updated to ensure the facility is prepared for any event. The challenge is to disrupt and embrace the disruption.

For those readers outside of the facility operations process, it is necessary to provide brief clarification concerning what constitutes a state of emergency in a secure facility. A state of emergency usually results in a lock down. Even though the facility is “technically” locked at all times, a lock down confines inmates to their cells. Most facilities temporarily suspend

any nonessential operations in order to prevent, contain or control a situation both inside and outside the secure perimeter. Having worked inside the walls, I can assure you that lock downs are zero fun. One of the most anxiety creating events in my career while working as a facility contractor was being stuck inside the secure perimeter for over 20 hours during a lock down.

Recollection of this event still keeps me up at night!

Reform understands operational hazards or incidents can come in a variety of forms. They are any natural or manmade disasters, pandemics or accidents that may significantly disrupt institutional operations or programs. Some of these are predictable but some have little advance warning where preparedness is practically impossible. Events such as riots, strikes, attacks upon inmates, visitors or staff, explosions or fires, suicides or attempted suicides, and accidental injuries to inmates or visitors or employees are, for the most part, unpredictable. Be assured, all are usually preventable and reform needs to concentrate on preparedness and prevention. Other situations such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and even national security threats and occurrences like COVID-19 can have a severe impact on facility operations. Many times, the emergency operation plans will include procedures for requesting and receiving assistance from outside the institution when circumstances warrant. All in all, every identifiable event should have a plan and a specific design and construction process.

Reform drives the cause and effect of the events to be constantly reviewed and evaluated by the institution head or regional administrator in order to develop better prevention methodologies and trained staff who are prepared to deal with the human factors. Architects, engineers and construction managers can use these prevention program methodologies and work hand in hand with facility administration to develop facility specific design and construction considerations to support operations.

The goal of these efforts should be to maintain a safe and secure environment as well as allowing the facility’s affected areas, programs, and operations to be returned to normal as quickly as possible after an incident. Most importantly, when these methods are put into good practice, the facility staff, inmates and the general public can get a good night’s sleep. To sleep really soundly, reform needs to be a continuing process.

*Gregory J. Offner, CCM, a Correctional News Editorial Advisory Board member and regular contributor to CN, is a senior associate with Professional Systems Engineering, LLC (PSE).*

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# The Critical Need for Correctional Facility Training Cells

By David McRoberts

Professional corrections practitioners understand the critical need that continual staff training plays in maintaining skills, competences and operational readiness, which is to prepare for possible future

events. Maintaining regular, current, and realistic training supports the ability to effectively respond, react and function effectively. The training topic list is a long one, but it includes practical operational methods of inmate and detainee movement, searching



Photo Credit: L.R. Kimball

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techniques, and the great variety of interpersonal communications and de-escalation techniques for calm and professional interactions between staff and inmates. Now, with the most recent complexities surrounding the COVID-19 virus pandemic, yet another dimension for immediate training in mitigation and sanitation techniques has presented itself. Having a training cell is now, more than ever, critical to every detention or correctional facility's operations.

As operators are keenly aware, in the correctional setting, movement into and around the confined areas of inmate cells is particularly high risk. Given the proximity of fixtures, clothing and the variety of personal items typically kept by inmates, these cell areas can be difficult to traverse and negotiate. It's in these cell areas that the events of inmate resistance and aggression often surface. Training to de-escalate and, if necessary, physically move non-compliant inmates is necessary to mitigate and neutralize these situations.

The very practical training scenarios for inmate movement in and around cells, including extractions is best practiced in a controlled environment and in as realistic a setting as possible, and out of the view of inmates. A training cell provides for this realistic and controlled training with an exact duplicate of what staff will encounter in their regular housing units without the problems normally associated with this kind of very dynamic training.

A training cell is a fully functional replica of the regular confinement cells located in the rest of that facility – including size, configuration, equipment and lighting insuring a realistic setting for training. Even water access to sink and toilet fixtures (combi-units) can be duplicated to allow for simulated cell flooding response, allowing staff to train in neutralizing this debilitating and damaging event. Additionally, whether it's training for implementing appropriate classification, necessary segregation to separate co-defendants and rival gang members, or the need to disinfect and sanitize areas to mitigate the potential spread of viral and other contagions – a training cell is a beneficial tool for staff

training. As all of us involved in training we maintain the reality of: as you train – you will act.

Training cells are typically located at or near a roll call and assembly area or, in some cases, within or adjacent to a designated training area of the facility. With a training cell as a resource, there is no need to improvise for training space or to vacate an entire housing unit, which often is the circumstance when attempting to achieve a realistic training environment. It also eliminates inmates viewing the training activity – taking note of techniques and methods that staff employ. When not in use, these cells typically are utilized to store training materials and equipment, so the space is not simply encumbered and standing vacant.

To incorporate a training cell into facility plans, the design professionals at L.R. Kimball work as a team with those of us who are long tenured professional facility operators and experienced law enforcement and corrections trainers. We, as their professional colleagues have decades of this bifurcated experience, work very closely with the architects and engineers to develop design solutions that our clients rely upon, including the design of this very useful training cell.

Training on virtually all aspects of the myriad of custodial responsibilities can be delivered utilizing a training cell making it an invaluable resource and tool for facility operators. Facility operators who have chosen to incorporate this important tool, report that the advent of a training cell is a welcome addition to their long-established commitment to continuity and regularity of staff training. Simply stated, the inclusion and use of the Training Cell enhances and maintains regular training for all staff to ensure the highest standard of effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and operational readiness.

Stay safe!

David McRoberts, CPP, is a Security & Operations Specialist with L.R. Kimball and a member of the Correctional News Editorial Advisory Board.





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# Today's Detention Equipment Emphasizes Health and Safety

By Lisa Kopochinski

Over the past decade, the corrections industry has evolved in many areas. Some of the biggest trends include a greater focus on health and safety, plus a push towards more-normative environments.

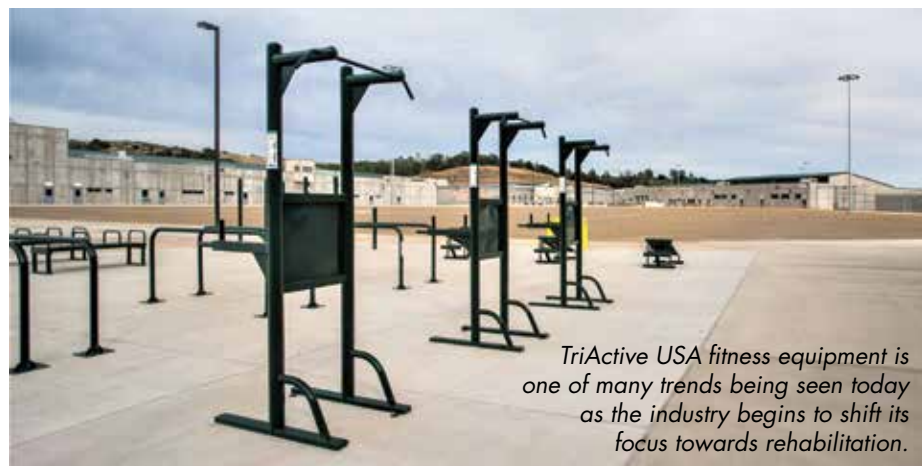
Architects, contractors, and owners alike are strategically designing facilities to be more home-like, which has proven to be more conducive to rehabilitation and having a direct impact reducing recidivism. And this trend has had a ripple effect in many ways on the waves within the detention equipment landscape.

"For example, facilities are using more plastic furniture versus steel, introducing an array of different colors that can be used to impact moods," said

Lucas Riphagen, co-owner of TriActive USA Fitness Equipment and RISCO & Associates, a manufacturers rep group that provides fitness equipment and other detention products to correctional facilities.

"What we are seeing—that complements a normative environment—is the installation of outdoor (or indoor), tamper-resistant exercise equipment. Feelings of stress, depression, anger, and frustration are all things that come with being incarcerated. Exercise equipment gives inmates an outlet to suppress these feelings and exert their energy on something that is positively contributing to their overall well-being."

Janie Jennings is an account manager at Cortech USA, a company



TriActive USA fitness equipment is one of many trends being seen today as the industry begins to shift its focus towards rehabilitation.

Photo Credit: Mikki Piper, Mule Creek Prison

specializing in the design and manufacturing of correctional and behavioral health furnishings.

She said the undeniable trend Cortech has seen in detention equipment has been the shift from steel furnishings to molded furnishings.

"This transition has been popular in dayrooms and common areas for some time now, but we are finally seeing a significant trend take place in the furnishings of individual cells as well, and there are many reasons for this."

For example, in terms of cost, molded furnishings are lighter and less expensive to ship and install.

"Once installed, they are virtually maintenance-free and will not rust, dent or chip away," she said. "Colors are customizable, which promotes a rehabilitative environment and eliminates the need for repainting. And, thanks to

modern technology, molded furnishings can be engineered to be safer and stronger than steel. Their rounded edges and corners make them ligature resistant, and they can be infused with antimicrobial compounds to reduce the growth and spread of bacteria."

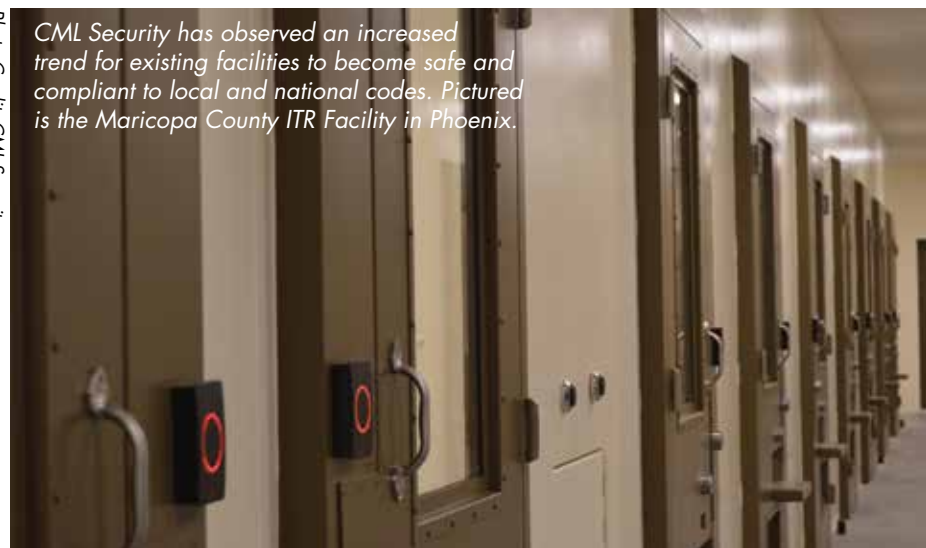
Brett Noecker, director of preconstruction at CML Security, LLC, a security electronics integrator, detention equipment installer, and service and preventative maintenance provider, has observed an increased trend for existing occupied facilities to become safer and compliant to current local and national codes.

"More notable of late has been the increased emphasis on officer safety and the control systems that are being updated in existing facilities. Retrofit

See **Detention Equipment Trends**, 23 ➡

Photo Credit: CML Security

CML Security has observed an increased trend for existing facilities to become safe and compliant to local and national codes. Pictured is the Maricopa County ITR Facility in Phoenix.



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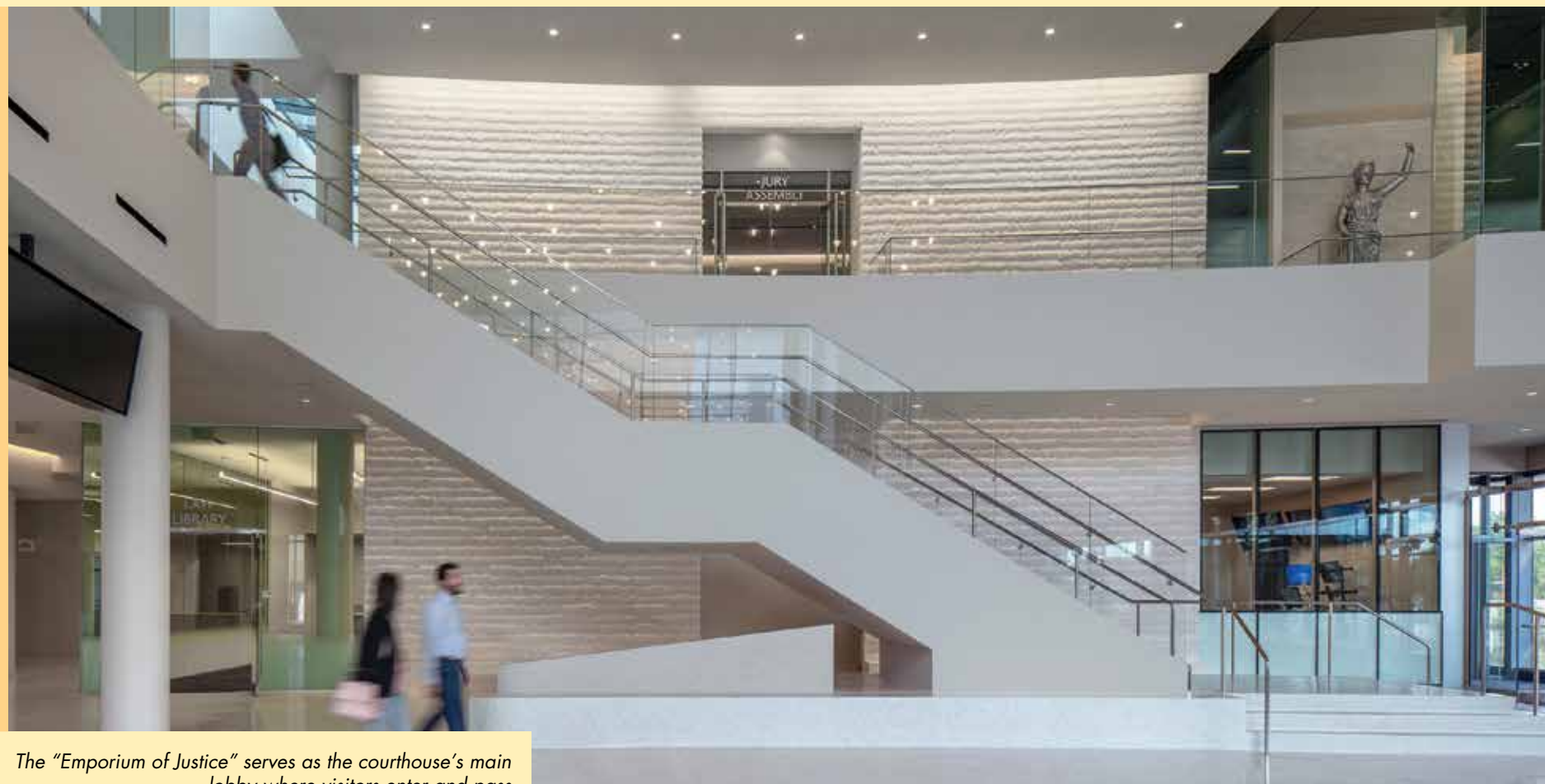


*Designed to USGBC LEED Gold with principles as delineated by the WELL Building Institute, the new courthouse will serve Johnson County for the next 75 years.*

*The distinctive seven-story, 356,831-square-foot courthouse replaced an aging courthouse by consolidating the Tenth Judicial District Court, District Attorney, and supporting spaces.*







The “Emporium of Justice” serves as the courthouse’s main lobby where visitors enter and pass through security.

# New Kansas Courthouse Anticipates Local Growth

By ZACH CHOUTEAU

A newly constructed venue in Olathe, Kan., instantly became an architectural icon upon its summertime completion—and is also set to serve the local community for generations to come.

The facility in question is the gleaming new \$182 million Johnson County Courthouse, located in downtown Olathe, designed by Fentress Architects in tandem with TreanorHL, and constructed by JE Dunn Construction.

Spanning 356,831 square feet and seven stories, the new structure replaced an aging, cramped venue with a stellar facility that includes 28 courtrooms, flexible space for six additional courtrooms and supporting functions; these include a Law Library, Court Administration, Court Clerk, Help Center, Court Trustee, Justice Information Management, Sheriff’s Office and other services necessary to serve all judicial and administrative needs for the Johnson County community.

The highly sustainable new courthouse has been designed to achieve USGBC LEED Gold and is expected to serve Johnson County for the next 70-plus years following its official launch in early January. It will also fulfill the county’s goal to reduce energy by 30 percent and accommodate the projected growth of about 10,000 residents annually.

This focus on future preparedness was a driving force in the venue’s layout and design, according to Brian Chaffee, FAIA, a principal at Fentress Architects.

“The courthouse is designed for future flexibility,

## Design Insights

An interview with Brian Chaffee, FAIA, Principal at Fentress Architects

**CN:** From a design perspective, what do you think is the most unique aspect of the Johnson County Courthouse?

The courthouse’s modern, community-oriented design features an efficient layout to enhance public accessibility to County services. The “Emporium of Justice,” the courthouse’s main lobby, defined the building’s functionality by providing direct public access to the building’s most needed services. An expansive glass curtainwall and punched windows allow the public to view the courthouse’s activities from the outside, thus enhancing transparency and openness in government functions.

**CN:** What was the greatest challenge in designing this courthouse, and how did you approach it?

From an urban design perspective, the team was challenged to integrate the mass of the building, which rises seven stories high, into a relatively low-density context. As a solution, we reduced the building’s apparent mass with the curvature of the form of the tower and the visual “base” created by the limestone-clad feature wall.

**CN:** Does the design fit any current major trends in the justice sector?

When designing judicial buildings today, it is important to place public comfort, functionality, safety and an appropriate civic expression at the forefront of design. At the Johnson County Courthouse, an open and accessible design blends with modern architectural features to create a welcoming, yet highly efficient facility.

Sustainability was also a major imperative for the County and the design team. To fulfill the County’s goal to reduce energy usage by 30 percent and other sustainable design objectives, we designed the building to USGBC LEED Gold Certification and incorporated WELL Building Institute principles.

**CN:** How does the venue’s design pay homage to the community’s heritage and past?

To create a design that celebrates Johnson County’s historical roots and culture, we sought inspiration from materials and forms found in Kansas geology and history. We incorporated limestone – a most common geological feature in Kansas – throughout the design to connect visitors and staff to the regional landscape. This context-driven approach is reflected in the curved limestone-clad wall – a major design element that hovers above and defines the main entrance. As the signature expression for the building, the wall’s form pays homage to the historic Conestoga wagons that traveled through Johnson County on the nearby Santa Fe Trail.

enabling the facility to serve Johnson County for the long term. The design implements highly adaptable spaces, including an entire floor of the building that will initially serve as administrative offices. As the County continues to grow, these offices can be converted into six additional courtrooms as needs dictate,” Chaffee told Correctional News.

“In addition, the courtrooms are designed with accessible raised floor systems to easily accommodate changes in courtroom technologies as well as courtroom

layouts,” he added. “This approach allows the courthouse to adapt to evolving needs and technology advancements over time. Sit/stand capability is provided at the litigant’s podium as well as at the Judge’s bench to accommodate a variety of needs and provide ergonomic comfort.”

Aesthetic highlights include the courthouse’s façade, which features a limestone-clad ribbon wall above the main entry. Once inside, visitors are welcomed by the “Emporium of Justice”—aka the courthouse’s expansive main lobby—where visitors pass through security.





*The new courthouse includes 28 state-of-the-art courtrooms with flexible space for six additional courtrooms.*



*An expansive glass curtainwall and punched openings advance transparency in government functions at the new venue.*

There is an expansive glass curtainwall and additional features that include terrazzo floors, glass handrails, acoustical plaster ceilings and custom millwork.

Public art for the courthouse—both modern and historic—is also on display. The former is provided by “Open Prairie,” a \$500K public art piece installed by Los Angeles-based Ball-Nogues studio and funded by Johnson County’s Public Art Program. The unique suspended piece comprises 5,400 strands of material with varied colors inspired by Midwestern landscape painters of the past. Additionally, the Goddess of Justice statue has been moved from the previous courthouse to the new facility’s lobby.

The courthouse project team additionally developed the north parking lot and will also transform the existing courthouse site into a new greenspace. Johnson County staff began occupying the courthouse this fall, with the building intended to open to the public in early 2021.

“This milestone represents a significant accomplishment in realizing Johnson County’s vision for a more efficient, community-oriented and forward-thinking courthouse,” said Fentress’ Chaffee. “The courthouse’s design celebrates Johnson County’s historical roots while embodying its innovative vision with a memorable structure that will serve as a longstanding commitment to the community.”

## project data

**Facility Name:** Johnson County Courthouse

**Facility Type:** Courthouse

**Location:** Olathe, Kansas

**Construction Budget:** \$193,922,038

**Area (square feet):** 356,831

**Start Date:** Design Start: November 2017

**Construction Start:** July 2018

**Completion Date:** August 2020

**Owner/Operator:** Johnson County

**Owner Representative:** Newmark Grubb Zimmer

**Project Manager:** Dan Wehmuehler (Johnson County)

**Architect:** Fentress Architects (Design Architect), Treanor HL (Architect of Record)

**Structural Engineer:** Bob D. Campbell and Company Structural Engineers

**Mechanical Engineer:** Smith & Boucher Engineers

**General Contractor:** JE Dunn Construction

**Detention Equipment Contractor:** Montgomery Technology/ JE Dunn

**Security Electronics Contractor:** Faith Technology

## Detention Equipment Trends, from 18

applications to bring control systems the ability to electromechanically release from control stations. Facilities have sought out solutions, and the industry has responded with versions of retrofit kits to convert existing manually operated doors to control operated doors.”

JonesZylon specializes in a variety of products for the corrections industry, including a complete, integrated system designed for food service operations. This includes everything from dinnerware, to all types of meal trays and all types of carts to deliver them.

“I would say the overarching trend in detention equipment—as it relates to food service—is that we have gone from largely using commercially available equipment to equipment that is specifically designed for the corrections environment,” explained CEO Tracey Zachrich.

While the food service operations in the corrections environment really has the same basic needs as any foods service operation, she said there are a few unique needs, and the priorities are different.

“Here is how I would rank them and why,” she elaborated. “Safety: the equipment must be designed so that an inmate cannot easily break something off and make a weapon out of it. It also must eliminate little hides for contraband. Durability: maintenance departments/budgets are a fraction of what they once were. Plus, this environment is especially abusive due to the fact that the primary operators are inmates with no incentive to be careful about the equipment. And, Simplicity: due to the type of equipment operators and the very high turnover rate, the equipment needs to be extremely simple to operate.”

### COVID's Impact

If one thing is certain during this worldwide pandemic, COVID-19 has forced manufacturers to think outside the box.

“This is the new normal and companies are planning for that,” said Riphagen. “I suspect you will see a lot of manufacturers integrate antimicrobial properties into their products. Inmates are confined to small spaces where they are sharing a lot of the same surfaces, so the idea that you can incorporate an anti-microbial property into the manufacturing processes in order to prevent the spread of COVID, is enticing to facility designers and should be a top priority for manufacturers.”

Jennings agreed and added, “One positive impact COVID-19 has had on the design of correctional equipment is the engineering of antimicrobials into molded furnishings. This is a significant advancement that will help to reduce the growth of microorganisms on the surface, contributing to safer environments between regular cleaning and sanitizing.”

Noecker said an increased focus on health and well-being into new design is

also expected.

“Look for the corrections sector to seek out ways to provide inmate and officer safety, including ways of limiting contact to surfaces. Furnishings will focus on improved anti-microbial surfaces and coatings allowing the ability to clean more frequently. Also, contact visitations and outside visitors may be reduced so

you will see the use of non-contact areas increase and subsequent video visitation systems.”

From a meal delivery standpoint, Zachrich said at the outbreak of the pandemic, there was an urgent need to deliver meals to housing units rather than to have inmates congregate in cafeterias.

“Where an institution used meal

delivery carts to bring meals to the lockdown unit, now it is trying to figure out a way to deliver all meals to inmates in the housing units. The immediate solution was usually to use any type of cart they could get their hands on the deliver Styrofoam clamshells. Now, many institutions are

See *Detention Equipment Trends*, 25 ➡



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# HOT PRODUCTS

## Facial Recognition Camera

Johnson Controls recently introduced the Tyco Illustra Insight, a new facial recognition camera designed to allow authorized personnel to pass through an access control point without disrupting the flow of people or requiring contact with a physical credential reader or keypad on which to enter a pin number.



The contactless operation of the Illustra Insight combines the functionality of access control management software and a leading-edge facial recognition camera to simultaneously recognize multiple people as they approach an entrance, providing an audible Welcome/Deny message, along with flashing LEDs, to notify employees, visitors and contractors of their status.

**Johnson Controls**  
[www.johnsoncontrols.com](http://www.johnsoncontrols.com)  
Reader Service #200

## Water Management System

The Willoughby WMSII Water Management System is a PC-based water control system for use with Willoughby Cell Valve Controller-equipped plumbing fixtures. By serving as the operator interface for multiple individual trunks of networked Cell Valve Controllers (CVC2), the WMSII system allows full water usage control of up to four networks through a centrally located PC workstation.



The system is recommended for correctional facilities that would benefit from water conservation, usage control and the abatement of potential vandalism.

**Willoughby Industries**  
[www.willoughby-ind.com](http://www.willoughby-ind.com)  
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## Tote Bag

The ToughBuilt® Modular Tote transforms how professionals carry tools and supplies. Offered in three different sizes: 12 inches, 18 inches, and 30 inches, you can choose the best fit for your upcoming projects.



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**ToughBuilt**  
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## Video Intercom Stations

Aiphone, a manufacturer of intercom and security communication products, recently announced that 14 of its most popular IX Series IP video intercom stations and components have received certification from UL, an independent global safety science company that tests and certifies products.



The IX Series IP video intercom stations and components which received UL certification were tested under UL standard, 62368-1, for audio/video, information, and communication technology equipment.

The IX Series features the power of an enterprise platform with the simplicity of a single system—offering scalable enterprise security—and is ideal for correctional applications and numerous other settings.

**Aiphone**  
[www.aiphone.com](http://www.aiphone.com)  
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## Paging Amplifier

The new high-powered PA-250 paging amplifier by Viking Electronics combines loud ringing, voice paging, and background music into one paging amplifier for easy broadcasting. The compact design fits into a single 1U rack space and can be used with both new and previously installed paging systems.



The PA-250 is a 250-watt rack mounted paging amplifier for 25V and 70V paging speakers or horns. Easily initiate a voice page using an FXS or FXO port, a 600 Ohm Paging port, or a microphone with push to talk capabilities.

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Reader Service #205

## Detention Equipment Trends, from 23

working on a more permanent solution for long term meal delivery to the housing units.”

She said the more responsive equipment manufacturers are developing simple and compact meal delivery systems to deliver a large number of meals at one time with an aim to minimize the investment; provide the system in weeks not months; keep the food hot; and secure the meals from theft/contamination.

### What's Next?

As for what the near future—three to five years—holds for detention equipment technology, Zachrich thinks there will be a trend where many institutions ultimately shutter cafeterias and deliver all meals to the housing units.

“That is how 99 percent of jails do it now and the state and federal facilities seem to be going that way. The right equipment technology will be integrated with meal trays and presented as a packaged system to help facilitate that. Also, equipment designed for corrections will continue to improve on how it hits on the corrections priorities—safety, durability and simplicity.”

Noecker said there will be a continued need to improve aging existing facilities with retrofit applications.



Photo Credit: JonesZylon

The overarching food service trend JonesZylon has noted is a move from largely using commercially available equipment to equipment specifically designed for the corrections environment.

“The number of facilities that have deferred maintenance has increased exponentially and current systems have exceeded end of life limits. There is a growing list of outdated locking and device systems [and] many of these devices are becoming safety concerns. Look for existing facilities to focus on improving living conditions and comfort, interior furnishings and furniture will press for normative and softer designs.”

Regarding new construction, Noecker added that the industry may slowly introduce new technologies to

compliment older known standards.

“While the lock and hardware standards will remain, look for new ways of control and access throughout facilities. Normative designs with focus on mental health will be commonplace on future designs. The typical living cell or dorm will introduce more features, including increased exterior lighting, accessories, privacy enhancements and anti-ligature

safeguards. The market will continue to focus on modularization of cells to combat budget and schedule challenges. We may see increased dorm style living units, to meet the demands for beds in larger jurisdictions.”

Riphagen said as the cost to build continues to increase, this will make it even more difficult to work within budgets.

“Perhaps you will start to see different construction approaches, such as modular cells to save construction time which, in turn, will reduce costs. You will also continue to see the use of colorful plastics versus steel, creating a more home-like environment.”

See *Detention Equipment Trends*, 33 ➔

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## DEC Quick Guide

The below listing is a mere sampling of the numerous Detention Equipment Contractors (DECs) found around the U.S. and includes each company's location, website, area of coverage and a brief insight on its background. If there are areas of the DEC industry you'd like to see covered in the future, or you have related news of your own to share, please contact Managing Editor Zach Chouteau (zach@emlenmedia) to share your thoughts.

Company	City, State	Website	Geographic Area Covered	Fast Fact
Anchortex Corporation	West Berlin, N.J.	www.anchortex.com	U.S.	Longtime provider of security gear, apparel and much more
C.A. Owens & Associates	Freeport, Fla.	www.caowensinc.com	U.S.	Providing services that include design, supply and maintenance
CML Security	Erie, Colo.	www.cmlsecurity.us	U.S./International	A focus on security electronics and detention equipment
Cornerstone Detention Group	Madison, Ala.	www.cornerstonedetention.com	North America	An industry leader in detention products and services
Florida Detention Systems Inc.	Melrose, Fla.	www.floridadetention.com	Eastern Half of the U.S.	Products and services include fences, gates, security
Jailcraft Inc.	Owings Mills, Md.	www.jailcraftinc.com	Mid-Atlantic	Showcasing locks, sliding doors, conrols and more
Jails Correctional Products Inc.	Minster, Ohio	www.fabcor.com	Continental U.S.	Maker of detention products that include beds, doors, mortises
Kenco Wire & Iron Products	Keansburg, N.J.	www.kencowire.com	U.S.	Expertise includes window guards, jail and prison equipment
Maximum Security Products Corp.	Waterford, N.Y.	www.maximumsecuritycorp.com	U.S./International	Doors and heavy duty hinges to electronic controls
Montgomery Technology Systems LLC	Greenville, Ala.	www.montgonerytechsystems.com	U.S.	Security electronics and detention control systems
Noah Detention Construction	Niceville, Fla.	www.noahdetention.com	Southeast & Midwestern U.S.	Design/manage/procure detention equipment/security electronics
Pauly Jail	Noblesville, Ind.	www.paulyjail.com	U.S. Midwest/South	Nation's oldest correctional facilities equipment contractor
R&S Corporation	Baton Rouge, La.	www.randscorp.com	U.S./South	Provider of correctonal products, maintenance and more
Secure Control Systems	San Antonio, Texas	www.securecontrolsystems.com	South and Southwest	Detention hardware, security electronics and other offerings
Securtec Inc.	Baton Rouge, La.	www.securtecinc.com	U.S./South	Provider and installer of furnishings, security, hardware and more
Southern Folger	San Antonio, Texas	www.southernfolger.com	U.S./International	Security electronics, furnishings and other products/services
Stronghold Industries Inc.	Racine, Wis.	www.strongholdind.com	Midwest	Specialziing in DEC projects as well as curtain wall/glass work
Sweeper Metal Fabricators Corp.	Drumright, Okla.	www.sweepermetal.com	U.S./International	Maker and installer of detention doors, cells, furniture, etc.
Taylor, Cotton and Ridley Inc.	Gainesville, Fla.	www.taylorcottonridley.com	U.S.	Offerings include installation of steel doors, frames, wood doors
Unique Security Inc.	Montgomery, Ala.	www.uniquesecurityinc.com	Eastern Half of the U.S./International	Security upgrades, preventive maintenance, integration systems
United Prison Equipment	Green Lane, Pa.	www.unitedprison.com	U.S.	A full line of detention furniture and accessories
Universal Security Products Inc.	San Ramon, Calif.	www.universalsecurity.com	U.S./International	Products/services include metal roofing and laminated flooring
US Security Systems Inc.	Montgomery, Ala.	www.ussecuritysystems.com	North America	Security systems specialist covering U.S., Canada and Mexico
Valley Security Company	Elgin, Ill.	www.valleysecurityco.com	Midwest	High-security hardware, electronics, materials and furnishings
W. Lewis Frame n Door Inc.	Willow Grove, Pa.	www.lewisdoor.com	U.S.	Focus includes prison doors, hardware, detention locks

*Emlen Media does not warrant or make any representations regarding the companies included in this guide in terms of their quality, timeliness, reliability or otherwise.*

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# 'Dutch' Treat – An Interview with Industry Vet Jerry Forstater of PSE

By CN Staff

Correctional News had the recent pleasure of conducting a Q&A with industry veteran Jerry 'Dutch' Forstater, CEO of the management and

engineering technology consulting firm Professional Systems Engineering, LLC. His group's projects have included the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia International Airport and over 200 justice and law enforcement

clients.

**CN:** Dutch, it's our understanding one of your first projects involved the infamous, 1874 Philadelphia House of Correction. Your recommendation was to close the

outdated facility. Why the recommendation and how many facilities have you helped close during your career?

The original House was 103 years old, reconstructed with the same block 60 years later. When Philadelphia first asked for survey of this historic 19th century panopticon detainees were setting fires to their mattresses, matches being contraband (while smoking was allowed into the 1980s) and plastic mattresses had not yet been issued. The most vivid memory was the central kitchen with outdated equipment from the 1920s; sheet cake pans being 3 feet wide by 4 feet long—with about 150 pieces of cake for inmates on each of 4 sheets - with four or six inmates having to grab it hot from their ovens.



It took over 30 more years to close this facility; recommending to the superintendent it needed to close. It closed within months late last year due to facility and conditions shortcomings. PSE staff has participated in closing, removing, rehabbing and replacing from occupancy over 40,000 cells throughout the nation in 14 state and county facilities which did not meet current detention, life safety and/or juvenile holding care standards. Our six in-house consulting partners mantra; improve operations and safety enabling accreditation to meet standards.

**CN:** In light of the question above, there seems to be some contrary values within your firm; passionate about closing older facilities yet being well known as an innovator who consults, designs, and provides engineering of public safety facilities. Can you expand on this?

These are identical values. The health and welfare of those inside protect the health and welfare of those outside. In short it comes down to improved policy, procedures and post orders with multiple tools of technology used as force multipliers. Here's an example.

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My first prison security assignment was to prevent the Chief of Security of a large state facility from being fired upon by his own officers with M-14's using 7.62 caliber ammo in 3-story gun towers during an escape. No joke. The Chief implored me to prevent his officers from shooting at him "again," and not at the escapees. The facility was constructed post-Civil War and had every element of being incompatible with humane confinement in relation to every known standard. No wonder they planned to escape en masse, communicating freely beforehand with each other beyond agency ears about the poor conditions. The best solution was to not have anyone escape.



Jerry Forstater

This 1876 facility, designed during the Confederacy, was doused with reverberating noise of 400-pound bar-steel cells doors closing and gates shutting hard throughout. The lead, hazardous materials, corrosion, and humidity was considerable. In 1991 our team began to redesign its replacement—master planning for the facility to close by 1996, but it did not close until 2007. Only after multiple attacks by inmates and the murder of an officer— even after state imposed technical screening.

It's what's inside that matters most, not just what you screen. If the entire facility is not safe, not just openings, it can't be deemed "verifiably-safe."

**CN:** *Dutch, are there any particular electronic and life safety technology improvements that are helping provide more humane treatment and appropriate accountability you recommend?*

Several come to mind. For surveillance monitoring, improvements to digital video include better corner cameras for holding and suicide watch (one of which we helped improve during proto-typing), and 360-degree cameras with de-warping software.

On the operational safety side, BLE, or Bluetooth Low Energy technology provides supervised location-enabled emergency aid calls through less

expensive, lighter, channel synthesized, portable handhelds displayed on integrated touch screens, saving lives.

Finally, the most important – improved safety from fire, smoke and assault risk, with cleaner, air-controlled, sanitary, brighter, quieter residential housing—in itself de-escalating and lowering "temperatures."

As we know there will always be individuals that must be confined, isolated, and cared for in more personal, close-custody. The "max-methods" of control will always be direct with very small steps of technology providing assistance.

It's important to recognize that for an officer to do his or her job, the fact of

having technology at their disposal does not in itself reduce the stress, change outlook, or provide outward procedural change. But, if better procedures and post orders can reside alongside improved jail management and communication systems, video management and duress stations, everyone inside and outside the facility will be safer.

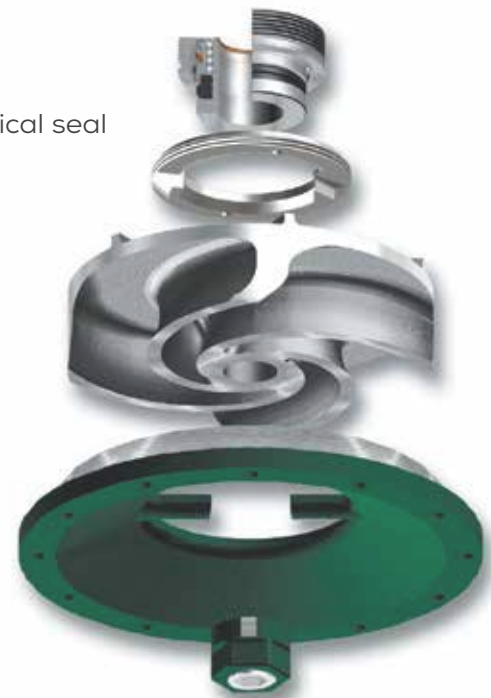
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**CN:** *What are some examples of system types that are so outdated or obsolete that they present a risk to the safety and security of the staff, inmates, law enforcement or the surrounding community?*

One of our cases involved the investigation of an escapee who “split under cover of darkness” from a morning kitchen trustee program – over the roof and the fence. Working for what appeared

to be weeks on escape, he killed an individual in a pick-up truck, becoming armed with a shotgun, then killing a state trooper. All while the perimeter alarm system worked flawlessly during the escape—but also alarming whenever it wanted to—unreliably communicating to a fourteen-year old obsolete security computer cared for by the Microsoft “uncertified” shift captain.

Staff become accustomed to older systems, not replacing them until after they break. Here’s some of the things I found in the past 20 years that lend towards improvement:

Replace old push button controls and older Windows operating systems and servers.

Review remote controlled sprinkler valves in high-rises and urban centers.

These may provide a liability that’s too high in event of fire. Codes do not permit this, and it’s doubtful the fire marshal will “back you up” in loss of life investigations.

Replace older video systems using RAID-5/6 memory cartridges. These need up to two weeks or more to rebuild, lending toward lost archives. Newer systems are not as limited. Think of replacement if issues such as “lost-frames,” slow switching, delays and freezing, or video tearing occurs.

Finally, chain of custody video may be rejected for evidentiary proceedings if not created from synchronized clock systems. Non-integrated legacy systems having multiple DVR’s are often mis-synced. Your explanation under pressure can be embarrassing in front of a prosecutor or judge.

**CN:** *We understand you’ve been called upon by state and county agencies to work on escape prevention. What improvements make facilities more “escape proof”? Can you briefly describe a particular project?*

In 1991 I worked with a Secretary of Correctional services implementing a statewide standard. This resulted in deployment of more than 20 miles of high-security fencing and 50 miles of concertina tape. The security designs even appeared on National Geographic’s Mega-Structure series, the Science Channel, and a popular men’s magazine for its max-security. Agency professionals I know still refer to these as “Jerry’s fence.”

In the 15 larger (one mile or more) perimeters in-design right now, few use newer, more elaborate sensing.

**CN:** *In your company bio, PSE lays claim to one of the few security consulting firms in the world that has completed over 300 miles of high-security, virtually inescapable perimeters. How have you seen perimeter technologies and installation change over the past 35 years?*

Both dramatically and not much. It’s a dichotomy that we often resolve back to “not wanting to change” as I indicated before. Take a state facility that for 20 years has had the same kind of volumetric detection. They want the same exact thing replaced. But if it’s not available, too costly to install, or there’s a cheaper way to do it, there may be a lot of convincing to do. On the other hand, just wanting a new kind of volumetric detection system can lend itself to high FAR, or false alarm rates. While quieting the system down—lowering the sensitivity —raises the threshold and reduces the probability of detection of escape.

Nothing can secure a facility like fencing, designed and engineered by a public safety professional using appropriate electronic detection. And



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# Policies without Politics

## Pursuing Criminal Justice Reform

By Stephen Carter

This is being written one week after Election Day 2020 and only three days after most networks declared a winner of the Presidential race. According to that app fairy that keeps up with screen time usage, I have more than maxed out. If you are also feeling exhausted, then we should chalk that up to democracy in action. To have over 150 million



Americans cast a vote speaks volumes about our imperfect, but accessible system. Regardless of our political leaning, the record-shattering voter turnout is worthy of note in a year that has redefined our future.

Perhaps in different times, the priority afforded criminal justice reform would not be so critical, but a year of street protests initiated by pent-up rage over social injustice issued forth a litany of political platitudes suggests differently. Each time we have another example of a miscarriage of human rights and social injustice, after the "thoughts and prayers" mantra, the will to actually take decisive action wanes very quickly. This must change.

This inaction has been especially on display during the toxic combination of a pandemic and an election. But that is not to imply that good ideas are not being advanced and I want to address one set of recommendations among many that has been offered by Jamira Burley who

is the daughter of formerly incarcerated parents and the sister of 15 siblings, one of whom was murdered and 10 of whom were (are) incarcerated. She is the Head

of Youth Engagement and Skills at the Global Business Coalition for Education and a MIT Media Lab Director's Fellow.

The following offered in an Op Ed piece in a national newspaper are her priorities for consideration in the next Federal administration.

**Reform Police Responses.** Work with community members to reform

policing and create alternatives to traditional law enforcement responses. Nationwide, the overwhelming majority of 911 calls (around 80% according to a Bloomberg CityLab report) are for nonviolent, non-property offenses. These would be far better addressed by specialists trained in specific areas like mental health and addiction, instead of

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merely sending uniforms with guns.

**Focus on Decarceration.** Reduce reliance on incarceration and its use as a first resort. A study by Time magazine found that 25% of the prison population was behind bars with little public safety rationale. These lower-level offenders would be far better served by alternatives to incarceration.

**Amend the 1994 Crime Bill.** Pass legislation to reverse the devastating consequences of the 1994 crime bill and redirect federal funds away from prison and police expansion and toward criminal justice solutions that actually work—such as the BREATHE Act, which calls for several grassroots changes to the system, including cuts to funding for

both the prison system and police and holding politicians accountable for promises to the Black community.

**End Mandatory Minimum Sentencing.** More than half of federal inmates were sentenced under a mandatory provision, according to a Sentencing Project report that included data up to 2016. These automatic

sentencing structures massively increase incarceration rates with no correlated increase in public safety.

**Implement Crime Prevention Programs.** Reinvest dollars previously earmarked for incarceration into evidence-based community prevention programs, including, but not limited to, mental health and drug treatment. This will curb incarceration while at the same time increasing public health and safety.

**Abolish Cash Bail.** Across America, 3 out of every 5 people sitting in jail have not been convicted of a crime. They are just too poor to go home. Cash bail criminalizes poverty and locks up millions of innocent people every year.

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**Reform Prosecutorial Procedures.** End conviction incentives for federal prosecutors. The system now gives prosecutors disproportionate power to send people to prison, without them having to justify the costs. Coupled with a culture that rewards convictions and long sentences, this presents a perverse set of incentives that contribute vastly to mass incarceration.

**Restore Pell Grants.** By making incarcerated people eligible for federal education support and financial aid, we can reduce recidivism, provide meaningful second chances and restore dignity to millions of citizens. This will also send a powerful message about the rehabilitative role incarceration should play.

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**Reform Juvenile Justice.** Treat children as children in our justice system. Ensure all juveniles have parole eligibility, and legislate against their being automatically tried as adults. Remove police officers from schools. Officers unnecessarily criminalize minor offenses and scar students with unnecessary violence, contributing significantly to the school-to-prison pipeline.

**End the Death Penalty.** Halt executions and abolish the federal death penalty. Aside from it being morally wrong, capital punishment has been repeatedly shown to be terrifyingly error prone, ineffective as a deterrent, and institutionally racist.

None of these recommendations are new but the sense of urgency may be as change is often inspired with a shift in power. Going back to the 1992 presidential election, I recall the winning candidate suggesting that “in a time of change, security flows from initiative and not inertia.” Never has this seemed more prophetic. More than a mild dose of initiative will be necessary at the local and national level if any of these, and other sound recommendations, are to be implemented.

#### *Detention Equipment Trends, from 25*

He said architects and owners may still be slightly hesitant to fully embrace the use of plastics over steel due to concerns over durability.

“It’s been proven that plastic is just as durable and much safer; requires less maintenance; and is easier to install than steel. This could also have an effect on construction costs. The less timely and difficult it is to install detention equipment, the quicker construction will move. In addition, I think you will continue to see the integration of tamper-resistance exercise equipment in facilities over the next three to five years as it further contributes to a more humane environment. With the presence of COVID, and the medical costs associated with incarceration, I think it’s important that we continue to instill health and wellness in our correctional facilities.

Jennings foresees a paradigm shift in facility owners’ dispositions towards the use of brighter interior colors that facilitate a more normative environment.

“These environments will promote hope, rehabilitation, and support for reentry back into society. With encouragement from government officials and taxpaying citizens, architects in the corrections field will embrace this transformation and design facilities that are functionally same—yet aesthetically different.”

We all recognize that the devil is in the details and in the past, the details in a divided electorate has prevented any responsible change from happening. And the odds remain against any major shift in attitude even though countless surveys across the partisan spectrum (I am hesitant to use the word polls) suggest there is support for half, or

more, of Ms. Burley’s priorities.

Even though some still live in an evidence-adverse state of being, progress can be made a step at a time. I think all 10 priorities are worthy of a concerted effort by those who understand the criminal justice system and have the initiative to influence the reform policies free of partisanship.

This is an exhausted call to action.

**Stephen Carter, AICP**  
**November 11, 2020**

*Stephen Carter, AICP, is the executive vice president and global strategic development officer for Miami-based CGL.*

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# DECs Forge Ahead with New Products and Approaches

By Zach Chouteau

Even in an industry that has grappled with an uncertain 2020, the Detention Equipment Contractor (DEC) arena and its numerous firms find ways to grow and evolve. Here's a quick take on some recent news and insights from Detention Equipment Groups around the U.S. If you're a DEC with news of your own to share with the industry, please touch base with us at CN@emlenmedia.com.

## Cortech USA Touts Durability in New Equipment

At Cortech USA, the well-established firm shared info confirming the durability and integrity of its Endurance Wall Bunk and also the recent release of a sturdy new locker.

The company's top priority has always been to provide quality products that contribute to a safe and humane environment, and recent life-cycle tests performed on the Endurance Wall Bunk prove that its rotationally molded, polyethylene structure is just as strong, if not stronger, than its duller metal and steel counterparts.

With pilot holes already engineered into the mold of the wall bunk itself, the installation process is simple and straightforward, requiring just a drill and rubber mallet accompanied by some hardware to complete. Cortech's suggested procedure was used to mount the bunk onto a wall to begin preparations for the life cycle testing. A heavy-duty leather bag was filled to 200 lbs. and positioned at the midspan of the outer edge, aka the "heart" of the bed, where the most pressure is typically expected. The weight was repeatedly applied nearly 13,000 times before increasing the load to 250 lbs. Testing continued at the heavier weight until a total of 70,000 cycles were conducted. The results were

highly impressive and concluded that no visible damage had occurred during the repetitive cycles.

The bunks are stain-resistant, easy to clean, and infused with an antimicrobial compound to reduce the growth and spread of bacteria on the surface. Custom colors are available and recommended for promoting normative environments focused on rehabilitation.

Cortech USA® also recently introduced its newest addition to the Endurance line of furniture: the Endurance Locker. Combining pleasing aesthetics with unparalleled durability, the locker offers a safe and secure storage option for personal property.

Built to last using the most advanced rotational molding technology, the locker is constructed of flame-retardant polyethylene and is completely free of metal hinges, making it an extremely safe option for intensive use environments. It can stand alone in individual dorm rooms or be neighbored together in general population areas. Each locker is equipped with a predetermined combination flush-mount lock and hasp



The Endurance Locker is flame-retardant and free of any metal hinges.

system that can be overridden by a master key, ensuring protection for both residents and personnel. When free-standing, the door rotates 270 degrees and conveniently nestles into the side of the mold. The interior readily provides 7.75 feet of total storage space, with two non-removable shelves and an anti-ligature shelf for hanging clothes.



Cortech's wall bunk passed a recent integrity test with flying colors.

Colors can be thoughtfully chosen based on need or preference while the locking system provides a sense of freedom knowing that personal belongings are secure. It is virtually maintenance-free and can be cleaned using a disinfectant or soap and water.

## Hope's Windows Scores Hurricane Certification for New Pivot Doors

Hope's Windows, Inc., a leading manufacturer of custom-designed, solid hot-rolled steel and solid bronze window and door systems, announces that its Jamestown175TM Series hurricane pivot doors have passed stringent wind tests and are certified for use within hurricane and impact zones. The doors adhere to Miami-Dade County, Florida Building Code (FBC) and High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ) standards.

The Jamestown175TM Series include massive 6' wide by 11' tall single panel doors; time-tested solid, hot-rolled steel, ultra-thin sightlines, and Hope's exclusive Power of 5 Finishing System. The doors are tested for TAS-201 (large missile impact), TAS-202 (structural), TAS-203 (cyclic load), air infiltration,



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Cell image of Cortech USA products illustrates the shift to normative environments with detention equipment.

Photo Credit (all): Cortech USA

water, and design pressure of +/- 60.0 PSF.

"At Hope's, we do not take anything for granted. We know our clients have very high expectations of our products and we take this very seriously. The Jamestown175TM Series pivot doors are the perfect example of this tenet," said Southeast Regional Sales Manager Adam Irgang. "These doors have passed the most stringent tests in the country, and we're proud to offer a one-of-a-kind product that represents our brand and reputation."

#### U.S. Security Checks In

U.S. Security has had several changes over the past two years. Joseph Ames and Tim Clifford joined the company in early 2019. Ron Clifford announced his retirement in late 2019, although he is still active with the company in a supporting role. The firm also relocated its offices from Dadeville, Ala., to Opelika, Ala., in the spring of 2020 as well as hiring a new controller, Brittany Eiland. Its website ([www.ussecuritysystems.com](http://www.ussecuritysystems.com)) was also updated not long ago.

#### TriActive USA Update

TriActive USA Fitness Equipment was founded in 2018 by Lucas & Gregg Riphagen, a father-son duo who have not has statewide been working alongside each other building a manufacturer rep firm called RIPCO & Associates, which was founded in 2014 covering the Western part of the United States. Gregg had 15+ years of experience working with a few of the industry's elite manufacturers where he was exposed to the independent rep business and how they operated. He knew this was something he wanted to pursue and shortly after the launch of RIPCO & Associates in 2014, TriActive America, who manufactured outdoor fitness equipment for the correctional market, reached out looking to hire us to sell their products. After about 5 years of success with the TriActive America line, the owner called and said, "We're closing our doors and heading for retirement."

"As a rep, when you lose a line, you lose a portion of income, so we had a decision to make," Lucas Riphagen told CN. "Either we pursue another manufacturer who aligns with our mission or we make TriActive America an offer to buy their business and get into manufacturing, which is what we decided to do."

He added that the evolution of TriActive USA over the past 2.5 years

has been great.

"Since our launch in 2018, we have worked with nearly 100 correctional facilities across the country. We launched with 18 products and have since grown the line to about 22 products," Riphagen explained. "We made some major design changes to enhance the quality and reliability of our equipment and

have brought all manufacturing into the United States, while still remaining very price competitive, which has been great for us and our customers. We launched the business out of a friend's 900-square-foot warehouse back in 2018 and on January 1st, 2020 we moved into a 4,000-square-foot warehouse and office space. In addition, we hired our first

full-time employee who happens to be my sister (Gregg's daughter), solidifying us as a true family-owned and operated business."

As TriActive USA continues to grow, he added, the company is always looking to expand its sales efforts through additional reps and dealers throughout the U.S.



## THE DETENTION INDUSTRY'S UNDISPUTABLE LEADER IN PREFABRICATED PRODUCTS

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Officials and key construction and design personnel with the Maine Department of Corrections, Cianbro Corporation and SMRT Architects and Engineers visited the Oldcastle Infrastructure plant located in Avon, Ct., for a mock-up review of the precast cells for the Maine Correctional Facility.

A look at one of the precast cells supplied for the project by Oldcastle Infrastructure.

# Major Undertaking Boosts Maine Correctional Facility

By Joe McKenna

## Project Background: Maine Correctional Facility

The current endeavor taking place at the Maine Correctional Facility located in Windham consists of renovation of an existing building, construction of five new buildings and demolition of buildings being replaced. The project undertaking is a multi-phased approach due to the prisoner movement that will be necessary to complete the various construction processes. Facility space consists of prisoner housing, prisoner programming and recreation, laundry, dining and food preparation, waste management and administrative space, etc.

This project will be replacing 240 beds in the Building #3 General Population Housing unit, as well as provide additional Support and Program Buildings, Medical and Mental Health Buildings and other miscellaneous support buildings. The total project is valued at approximately \$126 million. Building #3 is slated for completion in late 2021/early 2022.

## Key Partners and Roles:

### SMRT Architects and Engineers—Project Architects and Engineers

SMRT, headquartered in Portland, Maine, with locations across the Northeast, is an award-winning architectural and engineering firm specializing in complex critical access facilities. Their expertise spans the spectrum of the justice system with special emphasis on secure normative environments including corrections, reentry centers and behavior health facilities. SMRT designs environments that enable restorative justice programming through a focus on normalized secure spaces, flexible planning and careful material considerations.

Much of the existing facility at the Maine Correctional Center is comprised of one main structure with many additional elements added throughout the years,



rendering it inefficient and expensive. SMRT's design team in collaboration with Pulitzer Bogard and associates, the Maine Department of Corrections, Maine Bureau of General Services and Cianbro focused on a progressive correctional and rehabilitative environment for the new facility. The direct supervision design will assist in reducing operational costs by collocating programs and services within the housing unit where prisoners, providers and security staff operate together.

### Cianbro Corporation—Construction Manager at Risk

Cianbro Corporation located in Pittsfield, ME is one of the East Coast's largest civil and heavy industrial construction companies. Cianbro operates in a dozen sector markets including power and energy, infrastructure, industrial and manufacturing and buildings. Operating in 40-plus states, the employee-owned contractor specializes in modular construction, marine and piling work, transportation projects, and pulp and paper construction projects. Additional areas of expertise include correctional facilities, chemical plants, hydroelectric dams,



and warehouses. Cianbro provides construction services from concept through implementation and works start-up, commissioned, and turn-key operations.

Cianbro has an extensive project list in the corrections space. As Construction Manager at Risk, Cianbro provides the Maine Department of Corrections with effective management of the project's schedule, cost, quality, safety, scope, and function.

#### **Oldcastle Infrastructure— Precast Cell Manufacturer**

Oldcastle Infrastructure's primary role was to supply 120 precast cells and 30 precast plenum units for the housing pods Building #3. Oldcastle and their vendor partners aided the Cianbro/SMRT team with design assist services, value engineering, budgeting and schedule development. The collaborative effort was key to the project's success focusing towards constructability, cost benefits and schedule enhancements.

The Avon facility will produce and ship over 80,000 cubic yards of precast concrete products over the course of a year. Plant capacity, quality control programs, committed project staff and a rich history of delivering challenging and complex projects on-time and within budget made Oldcastle Infrastructure a valuable partner.

#### **Project Data: Maine Correctional Center**

Owner – State of Maine, Department of Corrections

Facility Type – State Prison

Type of precast cell – Front Chase

Number of precast cells– 120 plus 30 plenums

Production Start Date – September 2020

Production Completion Date – December 2020

Oldcastle Production Facility – Avon, CT

Oldcastle Project Manager – Jason Popadak

Architect – SMRT Architects and Engineers

Construction Manager at Risk – Cianbro Construction

Plumbing Fixture Manufacturer – Acorn Engineering

Lighting Fixture Manufacturer – Kenall Lighting

Detention Equipment Manufacturer – Acorn Engineering

Detention Hollow Metal Door Manufacturer - Claborn Manufacturing  
Window- Hope's

The benefits of precast modular construction include value, schedule enhancements, quality and safety. Precast cell construction can be utilized as a structural component eliminating the need for additional exterior walls,

columns and beams. Precast modules can also support the roof structure over the housing unit dayrooms. A mezzanine balcony can be included as part of the modules.

Precast cell construction offers a fast-track schedule. Concurrent activities like earthwork and foundations can be prepared on the site while housing units are manufactured

offsite at the Oldcastle Infrastructure manufacturing plant. Erecting the building is like assembling building blocks, up to 40 housing units in a single day. At this rate, a typical housing unit will be set within a week, thereby eliminating thousands of hours from the job site as compared to conventional construction. Critical path schedules are met while engineering, drawings

and manufacturing can occur during the permitting phase.

*Joe McKenna is the business development manager at Oldcastle Infrastructure, a CRH company—and an industry leader in engineered building solutions, with 80 manufacturing locations throughout the U.S.*

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Photo Credit (all): Jerry Forstater/Professional Systems Engineering



Kilmainhan Gaol in Ireland is one of the countless historic prisons around the globe that Forstater has visited firsthand.

Expert Insights, from page 30

today's electronic detection? It's all about physics. These are actually finely tuned instruments (measuring physical anomalies) turned into security tools on an industrial and military level.

**CN:** Your firm has successfully improved life safety and nursing/patient safety systems, as a new paradigm in behavioral health security. Can you describe this new behavioral health security concept you use in your hospital projects?

The foundations of setting security zones are common in both corrections and military, often defining multiple zones—as many as seven—upon gaining entry to the most secure part of the facility. In behavioral and mental health we change that to a paradigm of three spheres of safety. The outer sphere is public safety, the safety of the community and the facility. The second is private safety—the facility safety that keeps the individuals in a safe, secure sphere providing levels of security

for improved safety of security personnel, nursing staff, pharmacy, visitors, medical and attendants. The third inner sphere is personal safety. That's that "three-feet-of-space" we all need to maintain a personal level of security to reduce anxiety, reduce the level of threat, and to feel secure during day and night. In these settings, calming, routine, and non-threatening environments yield better outcomes reducing real or perceived external threats.

**CN:** We understand 19 years ago you were "charged and booked" by a warden of a facility with "orderly conduct." There is a rumor you were impersonating Elvis, dancing on a housing unit day room dining table. How do you explain yourself? And is there any photographic evidence of said offence?

Guilty as charged your honor. For having fun. But that is not me in the photo, taken during a local hospital benefit. Though I've been in prison more than most inmates; they all say I deserve it.

**CN:** At the Corrections Maintenance Institute meeting of 2019 you presented dozens of photographs documenting how lack of budget for maintenance and replacement caused the shutdown of several historic prisons. The presentation was so well received many suggested you prepare a book on the subject. Are you working on a book deal?

I've been fortunate to have worked with the finest landscape architects, building architects, justice planners, historic preservationists and construction managers/contractors throughout the US, surveying prison campuses, detention centers and juvenile facilities—the oldest operating dating back to 1874. This became an unintended education.

Travelling with my wife and CFO, Teresa to see how historic prisons began in the 1600s through 1799 left impressions of torture in jails and the human condition from post-medieval through pre-industrial age. We hit Ireland, Scotland, Republic of Ireland, Singapore and many in the States.

Coming back to America to re-study US justice, you realize older county jails and prisons in the US were designed using the same concepts as that of

Great Britain during the 1800s.

Even the federal police holding cell we surveyed last week is reflective of the same handcuff manacled holding bar that was designed in the 1600s for holding convicts out on the streets of Edinburgh, Scotland. The only difference was the stainless-steel toilet.

In my seminars on why facilities need to be replaced, it comes down to two problems; first, critters and second, environmental intrusion. Every single facility closed because of these and safety issues reviewed previously.

Critters include any vermin such as roaches, mice, millipedes, and rats that multiply in thousands to millions in a facility; feeding on everything from grease traps to delivery areas. The environmental issues include water intrusion, lack of dehumidification, sewer backups, leaking roofs, garbage molds and fungus. When you see mounds of toilet paper moistened into papier-mâché at supply vents and locks in cells, this is often a lagging indicator of bigger site issues.

Compiling hundreds of photographs for posterity, I want to tell a clear story with a purpose. Stunning color photographs have been taken of architecture, cells, facilities, instruments of torture and confinement, methods of execution, art by the prisoners, and their (in-)human condition.

Perhaps it's the overt macabre and sadistic manners in which justice was meted for political and even financial gain that's of interest. Your newest coffee table book you say?

Jerry 'Dutch' Forstater has over 40 years of experience in public safety operations and protection of pharma, casinos, manufacturing, justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, legislative government, military, hospitals, cultural, and educational facilities. Dutch's firm, Professional Systems Engineering, LLC, has been at the forefront of physical and electronic security and access control with an emphasis on secure continuity-of-government installations and operations.

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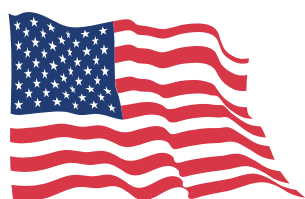
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