

STATE OF DELAWARE



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
DOVER

EXECUTIVE ORDER
NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

TO: ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS AND ALL PERSONNEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DELAWARE STATE POLICE, AND ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TASK FORCE ON CORRECTIONS SECURITY

WHEREAS, the recently-concluded joint investigation by the Internal Affairs Unit of the Department of Corrections and the Department of Justice revealed serious breaches of internal security at the Multi-Purpose Criminal Justice Facility (Gander Hill); and

WHEREAS, the investigation also resulted in the indictment and arrest of certain Correctional Officers and inmates who were involved in the systematic smuggling of contraband into the prison; and

WHEREAS, the investigation also revealed laxness in the enforcement of rules governing access to telephones, which permitted some inmates to use prison telephones for illegal activity; and

WHEREAS, the investigation raises serious questions about the internal security of Gander Hill, and, derivatively, about the screening, training and supervision of our Correctional Officers; and

WHEREAS, even though the investigation was limited to certain "pods" at Gander Hill, the ramifications of the investigation extend to all secure facilities of the Department of Corrections, suggesting the need for a system-wide evaluation of the internal security of our prisons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL N. CASTLE, by the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Delaware, do hereby declare and order that:

1. The Governor's Task Force on Corrections Security is hereby established.

2. The purpose of the Task Force shall be to evaluate the internal security of Delaware's prisons and to recommend any appropriate improvements designed to enhance that internal security. Specifically, the Task Force shall:

- (a) Determine the conditions which permitted the breaches of internal security which were revealed by the joint investigation of the Internal Affairs Unit and the Department of Justice;

(b) Review the rules and procedures governing internal security, and recommend any appropriate changes in such rules and procedures to prevent the importation and distribution of contraband in our prisons;

(c) Evaluate the current methods of screening, training and supervising correctional officers, and recommend changes in such methods to ensure that our prison guards uphold and enforce the law; and

(d) Recommend improvements in the capabilities of the Internal Affairs Unit of the Department of Corrections, including any needed changes in the Unit's staffing, technical expertise and equipment, and powers of criminal investigation, search and seizure, and arrest.

3. The Task Force shall comprise at least nine members appointed by the Governor, who shall designate a Chairman from among the membership.

4. Staffing of the Task Force shall be coordinated by the Criminal Justice Council and the Counsel to the Governor. The Commissioner of Corrections shall ensure that, to the extent deemed necessary and appropriate by the Task Force, the personnel and resources of the Department of Corrections will be available to assist the Task Force in its work.

5. Meetings of the Task Force shall be held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act; provided, however, that the Task Force must convene in executive session, inter alia, when considering any information from the Internal Affairs Unit of the Department of Corrections; any criminal files or records, including, but not limited to, any information generated by the Internal Affairs-Attorney General investigation; and any operating procedures or methods of the Department the disclosure of which might jeopardize law enforcement within the prisons. Furthermore, any person who so desires shall be permitted anonymously to provide information to the Task Force.

6. The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor on or before December 15, 1986. Interim reports on specific issues may be submitted by the Task Force in its discretion.



APPROVED this 17th day
of September, 1986.

Michael N. Castle
Governor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Secretary of State