



FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES  
DECEMBER 2015

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## Contraband Cell Phones in CDCR Prisons and Conservation Camps

Contraband cell phone usage is a problem that CDCR takes very seriously. Cell phone use by inmates poses a security risk by circumventing the monitoring processes in prisons. Modern cell phones can record video images, record conversations, provide Internet capability and be used to commit crimes. CDCR has identified occasions throughout the state when cell phones were used to aid in the commission of various breaches of safety and security.

In response to this problem, CDCR established a Warden's Advisory Group (WAG) on Cell Phone Interdiction. The WAG is charged with examining cell phone interdiction and related technologies.

### Penalties


- **Senate Bill 26:** In October 2011, Governor Edmund G. Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 26 into law, thereby making it a misdemeanor for possessing a cell phone in prison and/or attempting to introduce one into prison.
  - Visitors, contractors, or staff who attempt to introduce an unauthorized wireless devices into prison are subject to a misdemeanor prosecution and/or \$5,000 fine per device.
  - Penalties for inmates include up to 90 days good-time credit forfeiture.
  - SB 26 also facilitates deployment of technologies to disrupt unauthorized cellular transmissions from prisons. The technology, called Managed Access, still allows authorized and emergency calls to pass through the system. See SB 26 Chaptered Bill Language:  
[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=sb\\_26&sess=CUR&house=B&author=padilla](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_26&sess=CUR&house=B&author=padilla)

### K9 Program:

CDCR currently has 49 dogs in the K-9 program based at various institutions. The dogs are trained to detect narcotics and/or contraband such as cell phones.

To become certified in narcotics and/or contraband detection the dogs and their handlers go through a 160-hour, four-week training and will eventually perform narcotic and contraband searches in the institutions and potentially help other law enforcement agencies during probation and parole sweeps.

Each dog is required to train at least eight hours a week as well as participate in monthly training conducted by the Statewide Canine Coordinator to ensure the dogs are working up to standards.



CDCR has three regional coordinators who make sure all of the K9s are working every day by either conducting searches at the institutions or working on parole/probation sweeps to make sure their senses stay sharp.

The teams are strategically placed at institutions statewide so they may travel, search, and return to the institution within an eight-hour period.

There are two separate types of CDCR K9 teams; active alert dogs which bark when they find contraband and passive alert dogs that are trained to sit when alerting their handler.

From July 2014 through December 2015, CDCR's K-9s tracked down approximately 955 cell phones alone. Also seized by the help of the K-9s was 111.10 grams of cocaine, 21.3 grams of hash, 479.77 grams of heroin, 29.2 pounds of marijuana, 3 pounds of grams of methamphetamine and 102.5 pounds of tobacco inside the institutions and camps.

In addition, the units provide assistance to CDCR's Division of Adult Parole, specifically with the Parolee Apprehension Teams, during their operations to locate fugitive parolees in the community. K9 teams also provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies by conducting searches of suspected drug houses during search warrant operations.

For more on CDCR's K9 Program check out the webpage:  
<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Contraband-Cell-Phones/K-9-overview.html>