



For informational Purposes
October 2013

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Security Housing Units

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) manages approximately 2,200 gang members and associates and 1,400 violent offenders in Security Housing Units (SHUs). The SHU is specifically designed to house offenders whose conduct endangers the safety of others or the security of the prison. The SHU is not designed nor intended as punishment for misbehavior.

There is no “solitary confinement” in California prisons and the SHU is not “solitary confinement.” Many inmates in the SHU have cellmates.

Pursuant to state law, an inmate can earn his way into the SHU by committing a serious or violent offense while in prison. This includes murder, attempted murder, drug trafficking, arson and extortion. An inmate found guilty of specified offenses serves a determinate term in the SHU; the maximum term is 60 months.

An inmate validated as a member or associate of a security threat group (prison gang, street gang, disruptive group) can be assessed an indeterminate term in the SHU. However, security threat group associates – the majority of inmates housed in SHUs – are no longer placed in a SHU based solely upon their validation to a security threat group (STG) unless there is a nexus to confirmed gang activity.

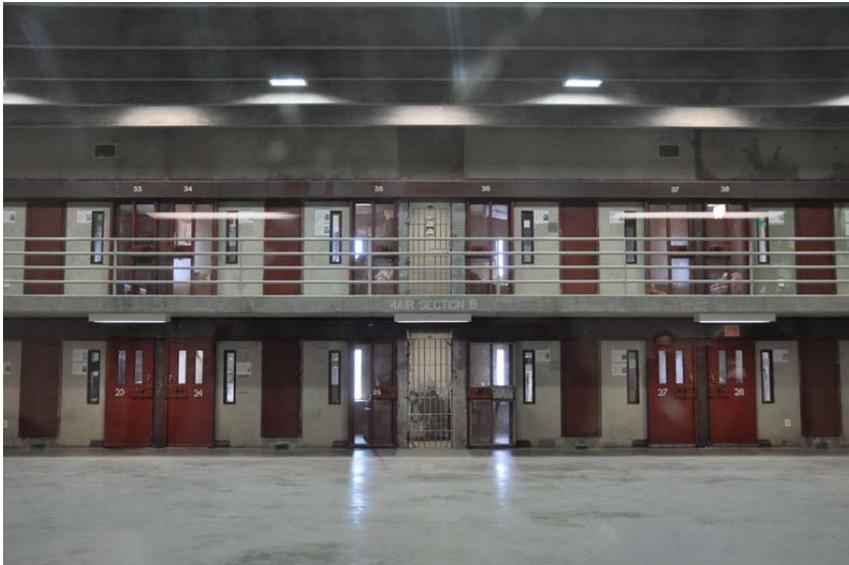


An inmate talks with others in the SHU at Pelican Bay State Prison

SHU inmates are housed at California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi, California State Prison-Corcoran, California State Prison-Sacramento and Pelican Bay State Prison in Crescent City.

The conditions of confinement in CDCR facilities, including the SHU, have been reviewed and monitored by external agencies for decades, including the Office of the Inspector General, federal courts and monitors in class action lawsuits including *Madrid*,

Coleman, Plata, Armstrong, Clark, Perez, etc.), and members of the California legislature.



Eight California state prisons – including two prisons with a SHU (California State Prison-Sacramento and Pelican Bay) – are accredited by the American Correctional Association, the recognized expert in establishing measurable standards in prison management and the oldest, most respected and largest international correctional association in the world.

The SHU at California State Prison-Corcoran

Approximately 2,900 inmates in CDCR are validated STG members and associates. Gangs are connected to major criminal activity in our communities and influence gangs in other prison systems and communities throughout the U.S.

Nearly 21 percent of inmates serving an indeterminate SHU term are validated STG members who maintain a high level of influence over subservient street gangs and other individuals incarcerated within the prison population and represent a significant threat to the safety of others and institution security. The remaining 79 percent are validated STG associates, who under the direction of gang members assist in carrying out illicit, disruptive, violent and/or criminal activities in the operations of these criminal organizations.

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