

ATLAS SAFETY & SECURITY DESIGN, INC.

High Rise Confinement for the "Innocent until Proven Guilty"

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The statistics are thought-provoking. Admissions to the Dade County Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation have increased 44 percent in the last eight years. The average daily population for Dade County jails has increased fifty percent over the last four years, resulting in severe overcrowding. A court order issued in 1982 ordered immediate reduction in jail housing to relieve the problem of overcrowding and levied a \$1000 per day fine to the county jail when it exceeded the court ordered population cap. In 1982, a \$20 million bond issue was passed in Dade County to provide funding for 2,500 additional inmate beds.

In response to the need for additional inmate space, Dade County commissioned the Coral Gables office of Harper Buzinec Architects Engineers, to design a 1000 bed maximum security facility for male pre-trial detainees adjacent to the existing Dade County Stockade. This Dade County Stockade Expansion was to be flexible in design to allow the facility to grow with the changing requirements of the local criminal justice system, and allow for humane, constitutional, and cost-effective detention for those persons ineligible for release alternatives. Construction of the new facility is due to begin in June, 1984, with completion scheduled for approximately fifteen months later.

The design concept for the new facility was based on three important factors: the use

of rewards as incentive for behavior, the establishment of operational procedures that encourage and facilitate interaction between inmates and staff, and the fact that the facility will operate in a decentralized form where inmate movement is greatly reduced and all functions are brought to him including food service, visitation, and immediate access to outdoor recreation.

The jail population will be accommodated in 21 housing units of 48 men each. These housing unit groupings permit a wide range of classification possibilities as well as having one correctional officer for every 48 inmates.

The operational philosophy of the facility is based upon The Federal Bureau of Prisons' "Functional Unit Management Concept." In this concept, the correctional officer works within the living module in a supervisory role. He works among the inmates without any form of separation from the residents. Officer security is maintained by the use of electronic body and telephone alarms. The need for frequent and costly inmate movement is eliminated.

The architectural design of the Stockade Expansion makes a positive contribution to the correction program by improving operational efficiency so that the facility can be effectively managed by custody staff and be built and maintained at a lower cost.

Room furnishings, fixtures, and finishes are non-institutional. Rooms are furnished with simple beds, wood desks, and porcelain sinks and toilets, as opposed to traditional steel fixtures. Because vandalism is greatly reduced by the management style of the jail, fixtures are not usually broken and are considerably cheaper to purchase and replace if the need arises.

The facility is intended to take on a non-institutional appearance to minimize the visual impact of its security and control features. The fenestration of the facility is comprised of spandrel glass panels and precast concrete wall panels that also encompass the exercise courtyards. The spandrel panels further add to the design of the building by their energy conservation features and the added security feature of being unable to locate the inmate room windows for outside communication. Rooms are ventilated by variable air volume single-zone systems. All housing units and administration areas are air conditioned for climate control. All smoke detectors and smoke evacuation systems, security vestibules and doors, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, emergency power systems, and energy management systems will be computer operated.

Special color schemes and graphics have been developed to identify the 21 separate housing units, associated elevator lobbies, and dayrooms. The use of color in conjunction with graphic symbols and letters create a complete system for identifying each and every area of the building. Exercise courtyards are enclosed by security

walls in order to facilitate a full range of activities. Overhead screen enclosures will secure exercise areas against escape and contraband introduction. Because this is a hi-rise jail without corridors, the new facility is unique as a correctional institution. The lack of corridors permits easy surveillance and eliminates blind spots and reduces the length of travel by staff and service. The design also improves upon the gross to net square footage ratio and helps simplify the often confusing process of finding one's way through a large and complex building.

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