



"A Message from the Inspector General: Notification of Needed Upgrades to the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Security Camera System," October 2021

Hello, I'm Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, my office released a Management Advisory Memorandum to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or BOP, with a notification of needed upgrades to the BOP security camera system.

Since 2013, my office has repeatedly observed inadequacies in the BOP's camera system that have impacted the safety and security of federal prisons. For example, in our 2016 report on BOP contraband interdiction efforts, we alerted the BOP to a number of issues, including: an insufficient number of cameras to capture alleged misconduct, poor video quality for existing cameras, inoperable cameras, and inadequate video storage. Over 5 years later, we are still observing these same problems, and they continue to significantly impact our ability to investigate serious allegations of wrongdoing in BOP prisons. For example, our investigations of sexual assaults, civil rights violations, introduction of contraband, dereliction of duty, and even inmate deaths have been affected.

Although the BOP recently completed upgrades to cameras at some institutions, it's critical that the Bureau of Prisons take prompt action to install a modern, fully digital camera system in all 122 of its institutions to help protect BOP staff, inmates, and the public, and to hold accountable those who engage in wrongdoing inside federal prisons.

To read our report, please visit our website oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov. Thank you for joining me today.

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