



## **"A Message from the Inspector General: Inspection of the BOP's Federal Correctional Institution Tallahassee," November 2023**

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

In May of this year, my office made an unannounced inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, or BOP's, facility in Tallahassee, Florida. As we detail in a report released today, we found several serious operational deficiencies, including alarming food service and storage conditions. On our second day at the prison, we observed bread covered in mold being served during lunch, and rotting and discolored food in the food preparation area. Also, in their food storage warehouses, we found cereal bags with insects in them, likely evidence of rodent droppings, and warped food containers. We immediately notified prison management of these dangerous conditions, and within 24 hours, they removed large volumes of food from the warehouses.

Other operational issues we identified at the Tallahassee prison were similar to those we've previously observed at other BOP institutions – a leaking roof dripping water into inmate living spaces, correctional and medical staffing shortages, limited security camera coverage, and vulnerabilities in inmate search procedures that contributed to the introduction of contraband.

We also found that, because of staff shortages, medical staff modified the time of day it distributed insulin and drugs to inmates, which may limit the therapeutic benefit of these drugs for certain inmates.

The body of our oversight work, including today's report, document serious issues at numerous Federal Bureau of Prisons institutions. These issues need to be addressed to ensure the safety and security of prisons and to provide humane living conditions for those in BOP's custody and care. The BOP's new leadership has started taking steps to respond to them, and the OIG will continue to conduct aggressive oversight to make sure our recommendations are being implemented.

To read today's report and our prior BOP reports, and to see photographs of what we observed at the Tallahassee prison, please visit our website, [oig.justice.gov](https://oig.justice.gov), or go to [oversight.gov](https://oversight.gov).

Thank you for joining me today.

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