

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Martin O'Malley
Governor

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Secretary

DPSCS Announces \$1.1 Million Security Equipment Purchase

TOWSON, MD (November 4, 2009)---The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) today announced the purchase of more than one million dollars worth of security equipment for its facilities. The equipment--- protective vests, gate entry scanners, x-ray machines, and state-of-the-art chairs designed to detect hidden contraband--- will be placed in virtually all of the more than two dozen pretrial, sentencing, and treatment facilities operated by the Department.

“Our mission is to protect our employees, our inmates, and detainees, and this technologically superior equipment will help us do a better job of that,” said DPSCS Secretary Gary Maynard, under whose watch the Department has already seen a dramatic reduction of violence against staff.

Added Commissioner of Correction J. Michael Stouffer: “The Division of Correction is driven to make Maryland’s prisons the safest in the nation, and nothing is more important in that regard than protecting our staff. The way to best protect staff is to reduce contraband. This equipment will do just that.”

The equipment, demonstrated today by correctional professionals, includes the BOSS chair, a new high-tech body orifice scanner that can detect contraband metal objects hidden inside the body. DPSCS has purchased 24 BOSS chairs. Some facilities already have the new chairs in service, and Major Mark Martin of the Division of Correction Security Operations Unit told members of the media his unit has already had two instances where the chair alerted to inmates with contraband objects hidden inside body cavities.

The Department also purchased more than 1,000 stab, ballistic, and combination vests; 18 new x-ray scanners; and 12 new SecureView entry scanners, which show officers specifically where suspicious items may be located in the clothing or on the person of those entering state correctional facilities.

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The security purchase comes at a time when the Department is undertaking a major violence reduction initiative. Between 2006 and the end of 2008, serious assaults by inmates on staff in the Division of Correction dropped 32%. And serious assaults with weapons were down 75%. In the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services, Baltimore's pretrial facilities went two years without a single serious detainee-on-staff assault. During this same timeframe, DPSCS has dramatically increased intelligence-gathering, gang identification, and cell phone interdiction efforts.

Here is a breakdown of the new equipment purchase announced today:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Supplier</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
BOSS Chairs	24	178,000	Ranger Security	Body cavity contraband detection
Protective Vests	1,033	430,945	Various	Ballistic and/or stab protection
SecureView Scanner	12	108,600	View Systems	Specifically locates contraband in clothing
X-Ray Scanners	18	435, 888	Security Det'n	Parcel, package, and clothing contraband det'n

TOTAL EQUIPMENT PURCHASE: Approximately \$1,153,512