

Press Release

State of Maryland
Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services



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Former Correctional Officer Pleads Guilty on Drug Charges

DPSCS continues law enforcement cooperation targeting gangs, rooting out corruption

TOWSON, MD (November 12, 2009)---Maryland's U.S. Attorney today once again praised the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) for its cooperation in assisting in an investigation that has resulted in the conviction of a former correctional officer on drug conspiracy charges.

According to an announcement today by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein, former state correctional officer Terry Robe, who worked at the Metropolitan Transition Center (MTC), a minimum security prison in Baltimore City, has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin in connection with a scheme to smuggle drugs and cell phones into the state's prisons on behalf of the "Black Guerilla Family" (BGF) gang. Robe and 23 others were indicted on these charges on April 16 of this year. This brings to three the total guilty pleas by former state correctional officers related to these indictments.

"Today's announcement is further evidence of how we're working more effectively with local, state, and federal law enforcement on everything from gang issues to contraband interdiction on a daily basis," says DPSCS Secretary Gary D. Maynard. "These efforts are paying off by building on top of our success in interdicting cell phones and developing intelligence on gang activity in our prisons."

In FY2009 those gang intelligence efforts have resulted in a 35% increase in validated gang members within the Division of Correction (DOC) over the previous year. Better intelligence capabilities, combined with other security practices enabled the Department to find 1,658 cell phones in FY2009 – a 34% increase over FY2008. Also in 2009 DPSCS invested \$1.1 million into entrance security technology including 24 Body Orifice Security Scanners, or BOSS chairs. These BOSS chairs give every state correctional institution the ability to do full body orifice scans of inmates, detainees, or anyone else entering our facilities.

The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission recently adopted new regulations requiring agencies to expand background checks on officer candidates to include verifying gang membership. The new regulation gives the Commission the authority to disqualify any applicant with verified gang affiliation from certification. These regulations become official policy later this month.

Also in April of this year, DOC intelligence officers teamed with law enforcement in "Operation Dial a Cell" - a project in which they used an inmate's modified cell phone in prison to gather evidence connecting two people to a 2008 murder in Baltimore City. At the time, federal prosecutors hailed DPSCS' efforts as "bold and creative undercover investigating."

**Click to see the [DPSCS One Sheet](#) with more information on current Institutional Security Initiatives.*

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The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services protects the public, its employees and the detainees and offenders under its supervision.