

Salvation Farms Security Analysis

Background

SESCF was tasked with creating a proposal of what would be needed to establish a “pilot” operation that would facilitate Salvation Farm’s plan to grade, pack and process commodity produce, in September 2012. Part of the task was to stay under \$10,000 and if approved have it up and running by November of the same year.

At the time security staffing was not part of the “pilot” proposal. The facility had a Work Crew Leader who was working on site and not actively taking crews out due to a restriction. As such, because of the time frame and pressures to make the pilot a success the WCL was assigned to oversee the operation and assist getting it started. They in turn used the inmate work crew assigned to them as a labor force in this task.

After the “pilot” the operation went dormant during the winter months. During this time discussions began around a contract and expanding upon the pilot into more advanced operations with larger quantity, more hours and greater diversity in incoming produce. It was at this time that the facility made it clear that the Work Crew Leader (WCL) was scheduled to go back to their mission of supervising ten offenders in the community Monday thru Friday and would not be available to oversee the production in the next phase, nor would work camp inmates be available any longer.

SESCF problem solved and asked for guidance from DOC leadership and it was decided that as long as the Salvation Farm member attended security orientation and had a background check they would be able to function in the same role as a volunteer, intern, etc. Meaning they did not need an escort and could be alone in the presence of inmates. In support of this SESCOF also provided key control training, radio training and sent a security rover through the production line every fifteen minutes to do a security & safety check.

Staffing challenges:

SESCF does not have a position or post allocated to provide security coverage for the Salvation Farms operation. The allocated posts are currently filled and any vacancies create mandatory overtime without additional responsibilities being added. If SESCOF were to provide constant security coverage it would be at time and one half dollars and would require authorization from higher authority.

Another challenge is the scheduling of coverage for the Salvation Farm activities. Salvation Farms often has fairly short notice as to when they will be expecting to operate based on notice from the farmer and the need to move forward while the produce is in favorable condition.

The time can be very short from the moment SESCOF knows they are coming to the completion of production. As such, because all staff on shift are already assigned to posts, incoming produce is covered by adding additional work to an existing post.

Surveillance equipment:

Currently there are no cameras in this space; however this can be requested. Security cameras are a deterrent, but should not be considered as real time security. This facility has fifty-one cameras with forty-eight of them displayed in groups of twelve on four large monitors. One staff watches these forty-eight cameras for unusual, unsafe and dangerous behaviors while manipulating a control panel to open and close doors while answering the radio and phone. This position does not have the capability to monitor a specific space constantly unless in an emergency situation where it is critical to life safety.

Going forward

SESCF underwent a Prison Rape Elimination Act Audit which is a Federal Audit that seeks compliance to federal standards that maintain a safe and secure environment free of sexual abuse and/or sexual violence. This facility passed all standards applicable to this site and only failed those that are collaborative and do not speak to specific conditions here. .

The DOC will soon be undergoing a staffing analysis by ASCA. With the approval of DOC higher authority the inclusion of this position as a possible post could be presented to the study. It is probable, based on the erratic schedule of production, based on produce availability and season any additional post would have to overlap into some other facility need to justify the expense to the tax payer. This could be proposed as part of the staffing analysis.

An additional camera(s) in the Salvation Farm work space would give the ability to review the activity taking place for concerns.

In addition, this facility screens, interviews and staffs all possible inmate participants prior to them being allowed to work in the Salvation Farm operation. DOC looks at offense and risk before approving them to work in this environment which adds another layer of protection. While these assessments help to identify the most appropriate candidates, it is not considered as a “fool proof” screening process; rather an informed process.