

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION
446**

**IDENTIFICATION OF INMATES AFFILIATED WITH SECURITY
THREAT GROUPS AND DISRUPTIVE GROUPS**

Supersedes: AR 446 03/19/13; AR 446 (Temporary 8/21/15)
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RESPONSIBILITY

The Inspector General's Office (IG) has primary responsibility for supervising the process for the identification and management, including validation, of Security Threat Groups (STG) and/or Disruptive Groups (DG) and the affiliated inmates.

Supervisory Criminal Investigators in the IGs office and assigned Inspector General Investigators are responsible to monitor STG and/or DG activity within the Department.

All Department staff share the responsibility in reporting and identifying STG and/or DG.

446.01 STG AND/OR DG IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

1. STG status is to be considered advisory in nature and ordinarily does not require specific actions beyond an increased level of security awareness. All staff will accurately document suspected STG and/or DG members and their activities and ensure all validation and supporting information and documentation is sent to the designated staff member within the IGs office.

2. The Department will establish:

- A. A mechanism to identify, verify, and validate STG and/or DG and the affiliated inmates;
- B. A procedure for STG and/or DG Due Process hearings and appeals.

3. The Office of the Inspector General will develop confidential procedures to identify, verify, validate and provide suggestions for management of the STG and/or DG.

4. The Office of the Inspector General will develop confidential procedures for the sharing of intelligence relative to STG and/or DG with law enforcement agencies outside the Department of Corrections.

5. Each institution/facility will develop institutional procedures to comply with the Inspector General's guidelines in the identification of STG and/or DG, and affiliated inmates to each specific group.

A. Each institution is responsible for the management of inmates affiliated with a STG and/or DG, based upon the needs of the institution while keeping in mind the variables of housing for each inmate.

B. Expertise and information relative to housing issues of and/or for inmates should be sought from staff members of the Inspector General's office when applicable.

446.02 STG AND/OR DG INVESTIGATION AND VALIDATION

1. When STG/DG activity or affiliation is suspected, the Warden/designee of the affected institution will initiate an inquiry to gather relevant information concerning the activity and any involved inmates. This information should be documented within Nevada Offender Information Tracking System, (NOTIS) and should include as much identifiable information as possible.

A. When practical the documentation, photographs and/or any other report should be imported into the NOTIS incident report utilizing the document import icon.

B. The STG assessment fields in NOTIS will be updated for all involved inmates, to accurately reflect current STG status and involvement.

C. If documentation in support of the activity and/or identification is not scanned, all relevant information and documentation obtained during the information gathering/investigation process concerning a suspected STG/DG or affiliated inmate, will be forwarded to the Inspector General's Office designee for review.

2. When appropriate, the IG designee will validate the concerned STG/DG or affiliated inmate in accordance with established validation criterion outlined in the IG procedures.

446.03 STG AND/OR DG DUE PROCESS

1. The Department will establish processes and procedures by which an inmate can question, review and appeal a STG/DG designation/validation.

2. In accordance with established validation criterion an inmate will be notified of suspected STG/DG affiliation via NDOC Form 1598 STG/DG Notification. The NDOC Form 1598 will provide what information the suspected affiliation is based upon.

3. The inmate will be advised as to the necessary steps to, if desired, remove themselves from affiliation through the formal debriefing process.

4. Should the inmate disagree with the designation, he can, within 10 days of the written notification, request in writing via his caseworker, a STG/DG Due Process Hearing.
5. The involved casework staff member will notify the supervisory Casework staff of the inmate's request for a STG/DG Due Process Hearing.
 - A. The Casework staff member should document the inmate's request for a hearing within the appropriate area of the Offender Management Module of NOTIS.
6. The inmate will be notified in writing with a date and time that the STG/DG Due Process Hearing will occur. The inmate must be given at least 72 hours of preparation time to be able to present evidence if he believes the suspected affiliation is incorrect. The inmate may not call any witnesses.
7. The STG/DG Due Process Hearing panel will consist of the Warden or designee, which can be an Associate Warden or a staff member with sufficient supervisory experience and knowledge, the inmate's caseworker, and one other staff member of the facility. Another assigned staff member, typically from the involved institution, will present the STG/DG information on the inmate. All STG/DG Due Process Hearings will be recorded via tape or digital means.
8. The hearing will begin by informing the inmate why he is suspected of being affiliated with a STG/DG, including presenting the facts about why it is believed the inmate should be validated. All evidence will be presented at that time and this evidence will be attached to the hearing document packet.
9. Confidential information that has been proven reliable will be presented, off tape and outside the presence of the involved inmate, to the hearing panel.
10. Once the evidence and facts have been presented, the inmate will be given the opportunity to present his rebuttal, including being allowed to speak on his behalf. He can present evidence both verbally and documents to support his case. He cannot call witnesses.
11. Once the Due Process hearing panel has heard and reviewed all information and documentation, the recording will be paused or stopped. The inmate and presenting staff member will leave the room and the panel will deliberate. Once the deliberation has ended and the panel has voted whether the inmate should be validated or not, the inmate and the presenting staff member will be allowed back into the room. The tape recorder will be restarted and the inmate will be made aware of the panel's decision by advising him that he is or is not to be validated as affiliated with a STG/DG.
12. Each panel member will indicate on NDOC Form 1598 whether they agree, disagree or need additional information or investigation, with the inmate's suspected affiliation.

13. A copy of the panel's decision will remain with the STG/DG file documentation and a copy of the panel's decision will be placed into the inmate's I file.

A. The original documentation, form 1598 will be sent to the Inspector General's Office, who in turn will upload the document into the STG module for that inmate.

14. The inmate will be provided information explaining to him how he can remove himself from the affiliation through a debriefing process.

15. The inmate will also be afforded the opportunity to appeal the panel's decision should he want to do so. The panel will provide the inmate with information explaining how the appeal process works.

16. After the STG/DG Due Process Hearing has been finalized, the inmate has 10 working days from the hearing date to appeal the panel's decision. The inmate will complete the STG appeal form or an inmate request form after the hearing or the Security Threat Group or Disruptive Group Designation, NDOC form 1598 during the STG Due Process hearing. The Inspector General will forward the form to the appropriate Deputy Director for review. The Deputy Director can agree with the panel, send the matter back for further investigation and review, or overturn the panel's decision for validation of the inmate.

17. Once the Deputy Director has made his determination or recommendation, the information will be returned to the Inspector General's Office, who will notify the involved facility. Casework staff is responsible to notify the involved inmate.

18. A copy of the written results of the Due Process Hearing appeal will be placed with the STG/DG module of NOTIS for the inmate.

19. The inmate's affiliation status with a STG/DG will be reviewed by or through regular case work review at the institution wherein the inmate is housed.

446.04 REVIEW FOR CHANGE AND/OR DEBRIEFING FROM A STG/DG DESIGNATION

1. During regular reviews, casework staff will confirm with the inmate any validated STG/DG designation.

2. Inmates who express an interest in debriefing, changing their status of designation from active to inactive, or want the designation removed must submit a request for any of these processes in writing through the casework staff member to the Associate Warden at the institution or facility where the inmate is housed.

3. The Associate Warden will designate an institutional staff member to:

- Generate a Nevada Offender Tracking Information System (NOTIS) report in the Incident Report (IR) module, clearly articulating the specific request by the inmate (Debriefing, Changing Status or Removal of Status);
- Import all documents associated with the inmate's request into the NOTIS Incident report;
- Notify the Associated Warden of the completion of these steps; and
- Refer the generated IR for review by the IGs Office.

4. All inmate requests for Debriefing from their affiliation with a STG will be addressed through review by the IGs office.

- The IG designee will review the inmate's request within NOTIS and assign the matter for handling and investigation to an investigator within the IG's office
- The matter will be assigned for review by an Investigator in the Inspector General's Office within 30 days.
- The processes and procedures associated with official Debriefing are contained within the confidential STG/DG manual.
- Upon completion of the investigation of Debriefing qualification, IG staff will work with Offender Management Division (OMD) staff as well as the institutional administrative staff where the inmate is currently housed to assess best placement for the inmate.
- Any activity, subsequent to official Debriefing, that is confirmed as associated with a STG will result in immediate removal from a status of Debriefed to include removal from any type of housing and/or programming associated to Debriefing
- At all phases of the Debriefing process, to include any possible removal from a debriefed status, housing and/or programming, the Department will take safety and security needs of the inmate, the institution and staff into account.

5. All inmate requests for a review for a Status Change to inactive will be initiated and conducted at the institutional level unless there are special circumstances that would not allow for the review to occur in this manner, following the prescribed format and processes, which include:

- The Inspector General's Office designee will assign the NOTIS IR an Incident Inquiry (IN) case number to the institution wherein the inmate is housed;
- The Associate Warden of the institution will designate an institutional staff member to conduct the review for a Status Change;
- The designated staff member will gather facts, information and documentation from NOTIS and other sources of information from the Department or outside law enforcement agencies in order to corroborate or refute inactivity. Some identified sources of information include;
 - NOTIS Incident Reports;
 - NOTIS Disciplinary History reports;
 - NOTIS Grievance log report;
 - NOTIS Inmate Housing History report;

- o Classification records from NOTIS and the inmate's I file;
- o Recorded inmate phone calls;

The designated staff member will conduct an in person recorded interview with the inmate requesting a Status Change;

- o The designated staff member will generate a report, including all garnered information, data and evidence and support his/her findings in the report;
- o The final report will be submitted to the Associate Warden of the Institution who in turn will submit and confer with the Inspector General's Office (designee) for a determination about the Status Change.

6. Any inmate that has had their STG/DG status changed or removed for whatever reason can be reviewed for any subsequent change of status based upon demonstrated STG/DG activity, association, or documentation.

446.05 STG/DG RECORDS CONFIDENTIALITY

1. STG/DG affiliation status information about an inmate(s) may be disseminated in conjunction with an official request related to the inmate from The Pardons or Parole Board.

2. STG/DG affiliation status information about an inmate(s), including DOC forms 1597 and 1598, may only be disseminated in conjunction with an official request, related to the inmate(s) from a Law enforcement agency.

A. STG/DG information and documentation determined to be confidential will be disseminated via official request to the Inspector General's Office.

3. Unauthorized dissemination of STG/DG confidential information or documentation is prohibited by any staff member of the Department.

446.06 STG/DG TRAINING

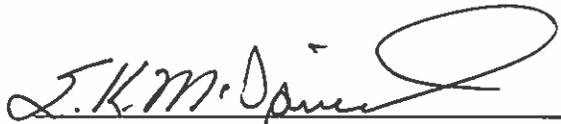
1. The IGs Office will make available subject matter experts to Employee Development Division for training of staff in the identification and management of Security Threat Groups and/or Disruptive Groups.

2. Department STG/DG training lesson plans shall be reviewed and approved by the IG designee and Employee Development Division.

APPLICABILITY

1. This regulation applies to all employees and inmates of the Department.

2. This regulation requires confidential Manual from the Inspector General's Office.
3. This regulation requires all institutions and facilities to have an Operational Procedure.



Director



Date