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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Secretary Gary Westcott

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Departmental Update on Orleans Parish Jailbreak Activities

Inmate recapture assistance, maximum security escapee housing, and requested audit

BATON ROUGE, La. - The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections continues to support federal, state and local law enforcement efforts surrounding the recent Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (OPSO) jail break that involved 10 inmates. Those activities include inmate recapture assistance, maximum security escapee housing and a requested jail audit.

"Public trust and safety is paramount and when events such as the recent jailbreak occur it erodes that confidence," said Gary Westcott, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "The Department's dedicated correctional professionals are committed to providing insight that will help local jails mitigate any future occurrences within correctional settings."

The Department's maximum security facility, Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP) is currently housing four of the recaptured inmates, which includes Kendell Myles, Robert Moody, Gary Price and Dkenan Dennis who have been placed in a secured area of the facility. In addition, to assist with jail security concerns, 63 DOC inmates were relocated from OPSO to LSP. Of that number, 12 of those inmates were already originally slated to be transferred into state custody prior to the jailbreak because time calculation had been performed. The Department typically processes inmates from Orleans Parish every week once they have been placed in ready status.

Governor Jeff Landry tasked the Department to audit OPSO for compliance with Basic Jail Guidelines (BJG), which are the conditions necessary to ensure the safe, efficient, effective and legal operation of a jail facility. Since 2013, OPSO has been under a federal consent decree. Due to this fact, the Department did not conduct BJG audits at the Orleans Justice Center. The last BJG audit of the facility by the Department occurred in 2014.

Today, the Department will send a team of approximately ten seasoned auditors to conduct an enhanced audit this week, which will concentrate on jail operations, such as overall jail security, jail staffing and jail policy and procedures. The audit is also comprised of 119 standards, which the facility will either be in compliance or noncompliance with. A written Compliance Monitoring Report will be provided to the Governor.

Images of the four recaptured inmates now at LSP are available on the [Department's Facebook](#) page.

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