



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
4TH FLOOR RACHEL JACKSON BLDG.
320 SIXTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0465
TELEPHONE (615) 741-1000 / FAX (615) 253-1668

MEMORANDUM

TO: Claire Drowota, Executive Director
Select Oversight Committee on Corrections

FROM: Reuben V. Hodge, Assistant Commissioner of Operations

DATE: July 28, 2007

SUBJECT: Use of Force Incident

Hardeman County Correction Complex

Recently the Department received information that an unnecessary use of force may have been used during the lock down incident that occurred on May 16, 2007 (see attached). The specific allegation suggests that unnecessary use of force was used by Warden Glen Turner. After receiving this information, the Commissioner of Correction authorized the Tennessee Department of Correction Internal Affairs to investigate this allegation. At the time of this report, Warden Glen Turner has been placed on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of this investigation. Warden Steve Dotson of the Whiteville Correctional Complex is overseeing the operation of both Whiteville Correctional Complex and Hardeman County Correctional Facility.

RVH:JD:CMF

PC: George M. Little, Commissioner
Dorinda Carter, Communications Officer
Jim Thrasher, Assistant to the Commissioner
File



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09/21/2007

Follow-up to Above Report

On July 26, 2007, Warden Glen Turner was placed on administrative leave with pay by Corrections Corporation of America pending the results of an investigation being conducted. On August 19, 2007, Glen Turner submitted to Corrections Corporation of America a letter that he is resigning his position as Warden and leaving Corrections Corporation of America. This resignation was accepted by Corrections Corporation of America.

On August 28, 2007, Tennessee Department of Correction was advised that Joe Easterling has been named Acting Warden at Hardeman County Correctional Facility. Indications are that he will be named Warden of Hardeman County Correctional Facility. Acting Warden Easterling can be reached at 731-254-6000 ext 2201 or by e-mail Joe.Easterling@correctionscorp.com.

RVH:JD:CMF

PC: George M. Little, Commissioner
Dorinda Carter, Communications Officer
Jim Thrasher, Assistant to the Commissioner

File

From: Jerry Lester
To: Hodge, Reuben.V; Sullivan, Judy
Date: 9/21/2007 5:28 PM
Subject: Re: Hardeman Co. Incident -- Use of excessive force 5-16-2007

CC: Drowota, Claire; Harmon, Bill; McKee, Bob; Tracy, Jim
Ms. Sullivan,

Please allow me to respond to your inquiry, as I was the case agent in the investigation.

The incident dated May 18 is likely the incident report concerning the disturbance in the chapel area of the facility, and would not mention the excessive use of force, as it was never reported at the facility. It was not until July 19, when the TDOC received notification from inmate Ingram's attorney of his intent to file civil suit, that anyone at the facility began to acknowledge the excessive use of force by Warden Turner.

Commissioner Little immediately authorized an Internal Affairs investigation into the matter on July 19, and instructed me to conduct the investigation. Assistance was also provided by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.

The investigation did support that Warden Turner physically assaulted inmate Ingram by throwing him to the floor and striking him at least twice in the head with the closed fist of his right hand. The case report has been provided to Assistant District Attorney Joe VanDyke, who indicated a willingness to seek the criminal prosecution of Turner for violations of TCA 39-13-102, Aggravated Assault, a Class C Felony, and 39-16-402, Official Misconduct, a Class E Felony.

A civil suit against Warden Turner is almost certain on behalf of inmate Graham, who was only slightly injured, having received a 2" laceration above his left eye, just below his brow.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Jerry Lester, Acting Director
TDOC Internal Affairs
100 Bomar Blvd
Nashville, TN 37209

Office: 931-707-8281
Fax: 931-707-5242
Cell: 423-273-0736
Email: jerry.lester@state.tn.us

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>>> "Judy Sullivan" <judy.sullivan@legislature.state.tn.us> 9/21/2007 3:39 PM >>>

>
>
> Reuben,
> In your report to Claire concerning the Hardeman County incident you
> refer to an "incident that occurred on May 16, 2007 (see attached)."
> There is no attachment. I do have a copy of an incident report dated
> May 18, 2007 but there is no mention of the warden using excessive

- > force in that report.
- >
- > On what date did the TDOC Internal Affairs initiate their
- > investigation of the excessive use of force allegations?
- >
- > Did the investigation prove that the allegations of using excessive
- > force were true and if so what type of force was used?
- >
- > Have any criminal charges been filed against the former warden? Has
- > the inmate filed a lawsuit?
- >
- > Was the inmate(s) injured and if so, how serious were the injuries?
- >
- > Thanks for your help,
- >
- > Judy Sullivan 741-1546
- >
- >
- >