DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Policy Number:	**301.110**
Title:	**Security Threat Groups**
Effective Date:	**3/5/19**

PURPOSE: To provide for the identification, monitoring, and suppression of security threat groups (STGs) and their members, who are or may become involved in criminal or disruptive behavior, while under the jurisdiction of the department.

APPLICABILITY: All facilities

DEFINITIONS:

Active STG member – an individual identified by the DOC as meeting at least three of the STG identifying criteria, with at least one of those criteria met within the prior three years.

Inactive STG member – an individual who at one time met three of the STG identifying criteria, but met none of the criteria within the prior three years.

Inactive suspected STG member – an individual who met at least one, but not yet three, of the STG identifying criteria, and those criteria met were not within the prior three years.

Security threat group (STG) – any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, with a common name or a common identifying sign or symbol, and includes members who individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal or disruptive behavior.

Suspected STG member – an individual who met at least one, but not yet three, of the STG identifying criteria, with that criteria being met within the prior three years.

PROCEDURES:

A. General Procedures

1. Possession of any clothing or property associated with an STG, or any communication or actions related to STG affiliation, is prohibited and may result in discipline.

2. No offender/resident or group of offenders/residents may be given control or authority over other offenders/residents at any time.

3. All incidents and items discovered that are potentially related to STG activity must be confiscated and an incident report must be completed and forwarded to the discipline office.

4. All staff who identify possible STG activity must complete an STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheet (attached), and forward it to OSI staff, who determine if the incident or item is STG related, and who either retain or dispose of the worksheet and evidence depending on the determination.

5. The field training investigator (FTI), or designee trains OSI staff on the identification of STG-related criteria, and how to complete an STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheet.

6. OSI staff must complete the STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheet (attached) for all occurrences identified as meeting one of the STG identification criteria.

7. OSI facility investigators train facility staff on the identification of STG-related criteria, and how to complete an STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheet.

B. Clothing

1. Any article of clothing that signifies STG affiliation through colors, style, or brand, including the wearing of any article specifically worn or displayed in a manner to signify affiliation with any STG, is prohibited.

2. Symbols or any other articles fashioned to symbolize STG affiliations, are considered contraband and are prohibited.

3. Medallions representative of STG activity or affiliation are prohibited. Necklaces that include any religious symbols, crosses, or medals must be worn under the clothing.

C. Property

1. Pictures, posters, or signatures that suggest affiliation with STGs are considered contraband and are prohibited.

2. All property identified as STG paraphernalia is considered contraband and must be immediately confiscated by staff upon discovery, appropriately documented, and processed through the discipline office, which retains the documentation. The items must be forwarded to OSI for use in determining any STG affiliation, and then to final disposition.

D. Communication

1. Written materials including personal letters, electronic messages, kites, magazines, newspapers, books, or organizational literature that signify affiliation with an STG are considered contraband and are prohibited.

2. Mail not allowed because it constitutes a risk to the safety and security of the facility, specific individuals, or the general public must not be returned to the sender or intended recipient. These items may be destroyed or referred to the OSI for disposition. The offender sending or the intended offender recipient must receive a completed Notice of Non-Delivery of Mail/Package (attached) stating the reason(s) for rejection, unless receipt of the form would inhibit an investigation of potential criminal behavior or other conduct in violation of facility rules. Completed Notice of Non-Delivery of Mail/Package forms (attached) must be retained by the facility mailroom staff.

3. Any hand signaling, verbal communication disguised by whatever means, body language, hairstyle formations, or eyebrow cuttings that represent affiliation with any STG is in violation of facility regulations and must be prosecuted through disciplinary proceedings. The facility compiles and maintains documentation of STG associated behavior.

INTERNAL CONTROLS:

A. Documentation of potential STG-related activities and/or items are retained by the facility discipline staff.

B. STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheets and STG-related evidence are retained or disposed of by the facility OSI staff.

C. Completed Notice of Non-Delivery of Mail/Package forms are retained by facility mailroom staff.

ACA STANDARDS: 4-4530, 4-4182

REFERENCES: Minn. Stat. § 609.229

REPLACES: Policy 301.110, "Security Threat Groups," 11/21/17.
All facility policies, memos or other communications whether verbal, written, or transmitted by electronic means regarding this topic.

ATTACHMENTS: STG Identification/Intelligence Profile Worksheet (301.110A)
Notice of Non-Delivery of Mail/Package (302.020A)

APPROVALS:
Deputy Commissioner, Community Services
Deputy Commissioner, Facility Services
Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support
Assistant Commissioner, Facility Services