



GA - Official Code of Georgia Annotated
O.C.G.A. § 42-4-1

(a) By virtue of their offices, sheriffs are jailers of the counties and have the authority to appoint other jailers,



THE BULLOCH COUNTY JAIL



The Sheriff's Primary Responsibility is to Hold Pre-Sentenced Inmates Awaiting Trial

- **It is important to remember that it is not the responsibility of the Sheriff to punish inmates who have not been convicted**
 - **Holding pre-sentenced inmates creates several complex issues including separation of co-defendants and witness protection**
 - **Case Law requires different standards of treatment for inmates who have not been sentenced**
- *The Sheriff is responsible for transporting pre-sentenced inmates to and from their court appearances*

SENTENCED INMATES-Two General Categories

- **INMATES SENTENCED TO SERVE JAIL TIME:** On some occasions Judges will sentence defendants convicted for misdemeanors to serve their sentence in jail. Some felony defendants convicted of non-violent crimes may also be sentenced to the jail. In most cases prisoners sentence to do county time are sentenced to the Correctional Institute.
- **INMATES SENTENCED TO THE STATE BUT NOT PICKED UP:** There are many cases in which an inmate is sentenced to the State Prison system but will spend a great deal of time waiting for transfer.

INMATES HELD WITHOUT BOND

Most persons charged with minor offenses are allowed pre-trial release on a surety bond (either cash or property)

However, many inmates must be held without bond:

- Inmates who are already on pretrial release for a previous crime
- Inmates who have probation or parole holds
- Inmates with outstanding bench warrants
- The inmate has been sentenced
- The Judge will not allow the release of the inmate until his/her court date

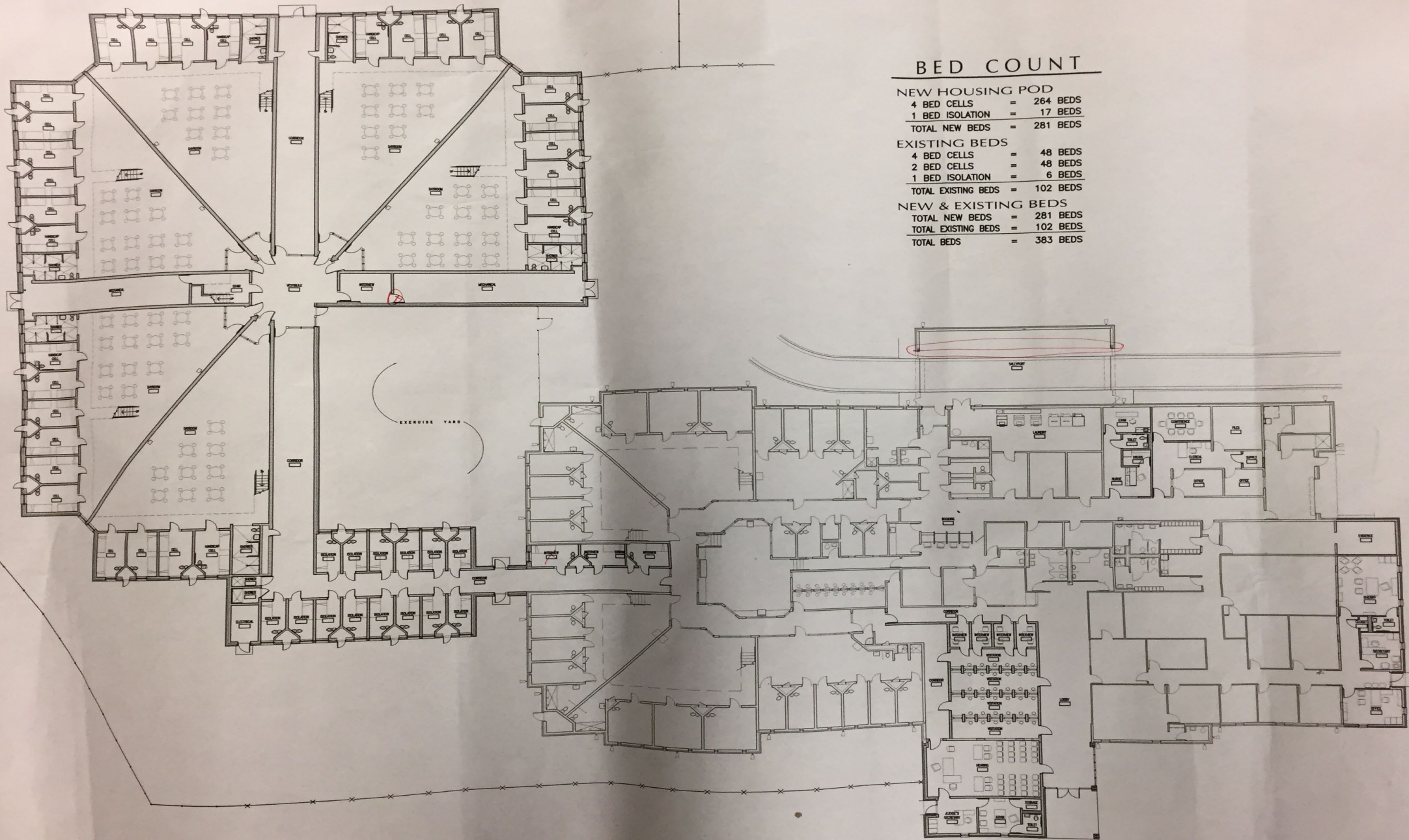
RECENT HISTORY OF JAIL CONSTRUCTION

- In 1976 a new jail was opened on Hill Street which was designed for 28 prisoners.
- The previous jail was the building which is currently occupied by County Probation and at one time was equipped with a gallows.
- In the early 1990's a new jail facility was built on 301 North. This new facility had a little over 100 beds.

RECENT HISTORY OF JAIL CONSTRUCTION

cont'd

- **Approximately a decade after the new jail was constructed on 301 North, additional housing units were added which increased the number of beds to 383.**
- **Shortly after this addition more fixed bunks were added for an increase to 466 beds.**
- **The existing medical facility, which was essentially a couple of offices, was not expanded to match this increase in jail population.**



BED COUNT

NEW HOUSING POD

4 BED CELLS	=	264 BEDS
1 BED ISOLATION	=	17 BEDS
TOTAL NEW BEDS	=	281 BEDS

EXISTING BEDS

4 BED CELLS	=	48 BEDS
2 BED CELLS	=	48 BEDS
1 BED ISOLATION	=	6 BEDS
TOTAL EXISTING BEDS	=	102 BEDS

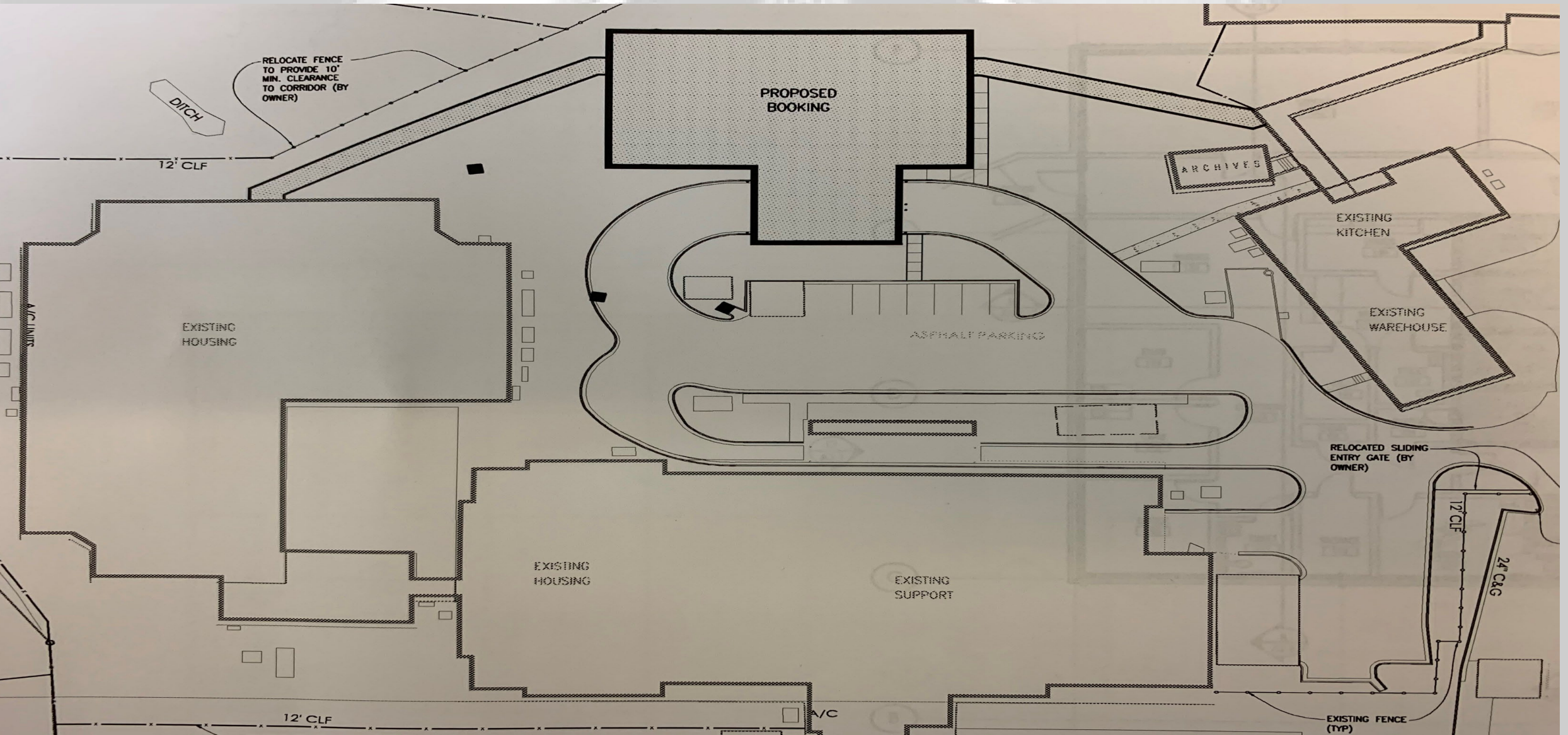
NEW & EXISTING BEDS

TOTAL NEW BEDS	=	281 BEDS
TOTAL EXISTING BEDS	=	102 BEDS
TOTAL BEDS	=	383 BEDS

INTAKE/MEDICAL BUILDING

- In the summer of 2023 our new Intake/Medical Building was opened
- This building, located centrally within the Jail/BCCI complex, was designed to provide support operations for the existing facility and future construction.
- Our Intake/Medical Building was designed with a large new booking area which had a raised booking desk, specialized holding cells and an enlarged two-bay sallyport.

OVERALL SITE DIAGRAM





42-4-4. Duties of sheriff as to jail inmates.

(a) It shall be the duty of the sheriff:

(2) To furnish persons confined in the jail with **medical aid**, heat, and blankets, to be reimbursed if necessary, from the county treasury

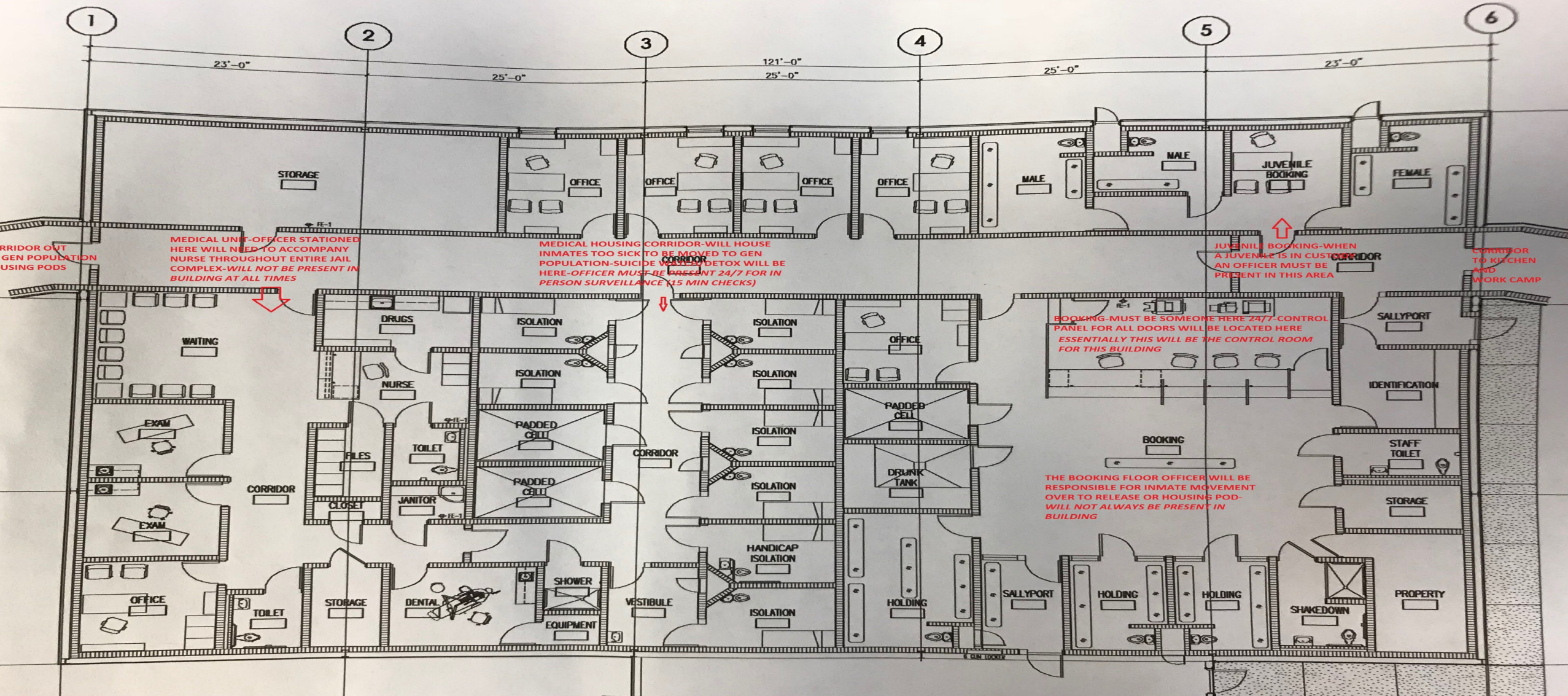
MINISTERIAL DUTY TO CARE FOR INMATES

- **Unlike Law Enforcement actions, which are discretionary, the Sheriff's duty to care for inmates is ministerial and is not discretionary.**
- **Care and treatment of jail inmates is a legal obligation which must be fulfilled**
- **Failure to fulfill this duty may result in civil liability in both Federal and/or State Courts**
- ***Currently we have two inmates with gunshot wounds!***

MEDICAL FACILITY

- **Our medical facility takes up close to one half the space in the Intake/Medical Bldg**
- **24/7 Medical coverage is provided to inmates with at least one nurse and nursing assistant available at all times and an additional nurse during normal business hours.**
- **There are dedicated exam rooms and a nurse's station**
- **Padded cells and medical observation cells are located adjacent to the exam areas**

INTAKE/MEDICAL BLDG SKETCH



SEPARATE JUVENILE HOLDING AREA

- Juvenile intake and holding is always problematic for county jails
- Juveniles cannot be held for an extensive period of time in an adult jail without a court order
- Juveniles who are arrested for a felony or serious misdemeanor are transported to the jail and processed
- They are then detained until being turned over to D.J.J. or parent/guardian
- During this process they must be kept separate from adult prisoners

JUVENILE HOLDING AREA *cont'd*

- **The Intake/Medical bldg. provides a separate booking and holding area for juveniles that is separated by sight and sound from the adult booking area**
- **There is also a separate entrance for juveniles to ensure they have no contact with adult prisoners**



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- **Members of our Sheriff's Escort Team (S.E.T.) are stationed in the Intake/Medical Bldg. They are centrally located to respond anywhere in the complex.**

RELEASE AREA

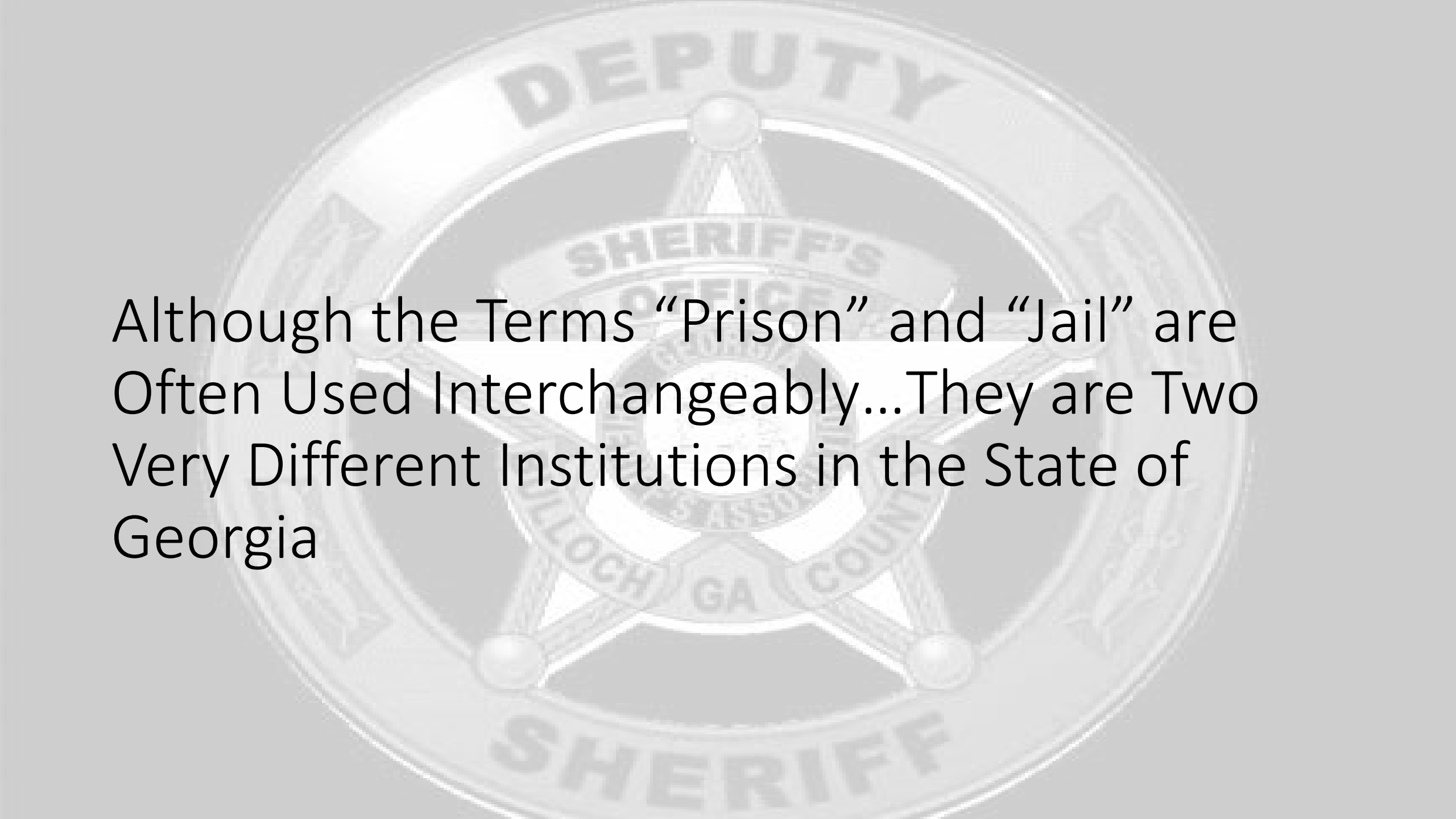
- Our existing booking area was converted to a release desk. This enabled a separation of the inmate intake and inmate release process. Previously intake and release operations were conducted at the same workstation. This caused constant confusion.
- Our release desk can also be converted back to intake booking when need be for mass arrests or similar situation. This provides for a good deal of surge capacity in an emergency.

DEPUTY





PRISONS VS. JAILS



Although the Terms “Prison” and “Jail” are Often Used Interchangeably...They are Two Very Different Institutions in the State of Georgia

COUNTY JAILS VS. STATE PRISONS

JAILS

- Most prisoners are pre-trial but also holds some inmates sentenced to county and convicted felons awaiting state pick up
- Jails must hold inmates of various security classifications
- Jails hold all genders

PRISONS

- All prison inmates are convicted
- Each individual prison facility has a specific security classification(s)
- Prisons are either male or female

COUNTY JAILS VS. STATE PRISONS

JAILS

- County Jails must hold prisoners who often have severe injury or medical condition
- County Jails must receive all prisoners who show up in the sallyport

PRISONS

- The State Prison system has a specialized medical facility in Augusta Ga.
- State Prisons utilize a diagnostic/classification center to determine which prison an inmate should be sent to

The Sheriff Has To Receive Most All Felony Arrestees That Show Up At The Sallyport No Matter The Condition.....

15-10-64. sheriff to receive sentenced persons.
(a) The sheriff of the county shall receive and house all persons sentenced to confinement for contempt or arrested or sentenced to confinement...

The Sheriff will require medical clearance when the inmate has obvious injury or illness.

Maximum Jail Capacity vs. Actual Number of Beds

- Unlike a Prison Warden, who can utilize each bed, the Sheriff must be able to move inmates around due to separation issues.
- Therefore most Sheriff's consider their jails full at around 85%.
- The Bulloch County Jail, with 466 beds, is considered at maximum capacity at around just under 400 inmates.
- Usually at @365-380 inmates we begin trying to move inmates out where possible.

HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE OF WHY A SHERIFF CANNOT UTILIZE EVERY BED

- There are four dorms available with 25 beds in each dorm for a total of 100 beds
- The jail has 26 female inmates and 26 male inmates
- A minimum of two dorms must be utilized for the male inmates and two dorms must be utilized for the female inmates
- Therefore 100 beds are used to house 52 inmates....leaving 48 unused beds
- *This does not even take into account other separation issues discussed in the next couple of slides....*



SITUATIONS IN WHICH JAIL INMATES MUST BE SEPARATED

- Male Inmates and Female Inmates
- Co-Defendants
- Witness Protection
- Non Violent vs. Violent Inmates
- Mentally Ill
- Suicidal
- Detox
- Illness or Injury

SITUATIONS IN WHICH JAIL INMATES MUST BE SEPARATED

cont'd

- Disciplinary Issues
- Strategic Threat Groups (Gangs etc.)
- Security Classification
- ***Pre-Trial vs. Sentenced****

CASE LAW REGARDING PRE-SENTENCED AND SENTENCED INMATES

- The following case laws illustrate the requisite for maintaining separation between pre-sentence and sentenced inmates due to use of force application when space and staff are available:
- **Whitley v. Albers** (UOF on convicted prisoners)
8th Amendment
- **Kingsley v. Hendrickson** (UOF on Pretrial detainees)
14th Amendment
- **Whitten v. Wooten** (GA case law on UOF of Pretrial detainees) 4th/14th Amendments

RECRUITING AND HIRING JAIL OFFICERS

- **Restrictive Hiring Process: Must Meet P.O.S.T. Standards For Certification**
- **Must Be Able To Tolerate Difficult Working Conditions**
- **Shift Work: Holidays, Nights, Weekends Etc.**
- **Negative Public Perception**
- **Jail Officers Must Attend Jail School Within Six Months Of Being Hired**
- **Field Training Usually Six Months**