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What's Happening

This month's issue highlights the evolving challenges shaping corrections and detention operations nationwide. Inside this edition, readers will find conversations surrounding emerging AI communication technology inside correctional environments, national contraband threats, intelligence-sharing efforts, leadership development, gang intelligence updates, and the importance of building stronger partnerships across agencies.

This issue also recognizes professionals making a positive impact in public safety while continuing important discussions focused on safety, awareness, collaboration, and the future of corrections.

Sheriffs Spotlight

From the Founder...

One of the greatest strengths of CODIN is the leadership and dedication of the professionals who serve both their communities and our mission. In this edition, I'm proud to spotlight Sheriff Daniel Cape, whose commitment to public safety, collaboration, and intelligence sharing exemplifies the values that drive CODIN forward. Sheriff Cape's experience and leadership continue to strengthen the partnerships that help keep our agencies informed, connected, and prepared.

As the old saying goes, "Walk softly and carry a big stick."

At 6-foot-7, Bleckley County Sheriff Daniel Cape doesn't necessarily need the stick.

If Sheriff Cape walked into your local Waffle House, you'd probably notice him before the waitress called everybody "baby" and asked if they wanted more coffee. And for my friends north of the Mason-Dixon Line, or out on the West Coast, the Waffle House isn't just a restaurant down here. It's practically a Southern town hall with bacon. It's where farmers, hunters, truck drivers, preachers, deputies, and retirees gather to discuss everything from Friday night football to foreign policy, whether anybody asked them to or not. Around here, a lot of good conversations start over coffee. And while Sheriff Cape and I weren't sitting in a Waffle House booth, our conversation had that same feel. A couple cups of coffee. Swapping stories. Solving problems. Talking about life. I figured we'd spend our time talking about patrol cars, budgets, and the never-ending game of catch-up every sheriff in America seems to be playing these days. Instead, somewhere between the coffee and the conversation, I asked a simple question.

"From your days as a Jailer, Deputy Sheriff, Investigator and now Sheriff, what's changed?" Sheriff Cape leaned back in his chair and grinned. "Crime," he said. "Crime has changed."

"Folks still think once somebody gets arrested and the jail door shuts, the crime stops. It don't. Sometimes it just changes addresses." For a sheriff whose county is intersected by major state highways and by Interstate 16, which connects I-75 & I-95, that reality is impossible to ignore. "People think because Bleckley County is a small county, we deal with small-town crime," he said. "But deputies are arresting folks from ten miles away, one hundred miles away, and one thousand miles away. Then we put them all together under one roof." He paused. "That's when you realize pretty quick that nation-sized problems can show up in small-town America."

As gang members, drug traffickers, fraudsters, violent offenders, and organized criminals from different communities and different states merge into a single detention facility, one thing has become increasingly clear.

Crime doesn't stop at the jail door. And it doesn't stop at the prison gate.



Bleckley County Sheriff Daniel Cape

"We're learning what corrections folks have known for years," Cape said. "Just because somebody is sitting in jail waiting on trial or serving a sentence in prison doesn't mean they stopped committing crime. Sometimes they've just changed zip codes." That realization, he says, has forced a change in thinking.

"There used to be this idea that patrol handled the streets, the jail handled inmates, and prisons handled convicts. But they're all connected Gregg, like you so often say, "the street and the cell are connected". The jail and the prison are connected. And if we're not sharing information and working together, we're missing opportunities." Cape believes criminals understand something government agencies sometimes forget. "They collaborate."

"Gangs collaborate. Drug organizations collaborate. They don't care whose patch you wear. Sometimes we're the ones worried about whose name goes first on the press release." He laughed. "Communities don't care who gets credit. Victims don't care whose logo is on the podium. They care about results." And that's where sheriffs, police departments, detention facilities, corrections agencies, prosecutors, analysts, and federal partners must come together.

Because some of the largest cases in America started with a traffic stop by a deputy in a small county. Some started with intelligence developed inside a jail. Some started with information gathered inside a prison. And some started because someone simply picked up the phone and said, "Hey, I think we've got something here." "The badge on our chest may be different," Cape said. "The shoulder patches may be different colors. But the mission is the same." Then, leaning back in his chair, the sheriff summed up our conversation with one sentence. "When we stop worrying about who gets credit and start asking who can help, we don't just win occasionally."

"We win repeatedly. And often." By the time the coffee cups were empty, I realized we had spent very little time talking about patrol cars or budgets. Instead, we talked about something bigger. Relationships. Trust. And the understanding that public safety has never been a one-man job, a one-agency job, or even a one-jurisdiction job. The problems may be getting bigger. But so is our ability to fight them, if we're willing to work together. Because no badge is big enough to do this job alone. But a table full of good people, pulling in the same direction, can accomplish just about anything. And judging by our conversation, Sheriff Cape would probably tell you that's not a new idea.

That's just how it's always been done around here.

Daniel Cape is a lifelong lawman and serves as the Sheriff of Bleckley County, Georgia. He also serves as the Sheriffs' Representative on the Board of Directors for the Corrections and Detention Intelligence Network (CODIN), where he advocates for collaboration and information sharing between sheriffs, corrections professionals, and law enforcement agencies nationwide.

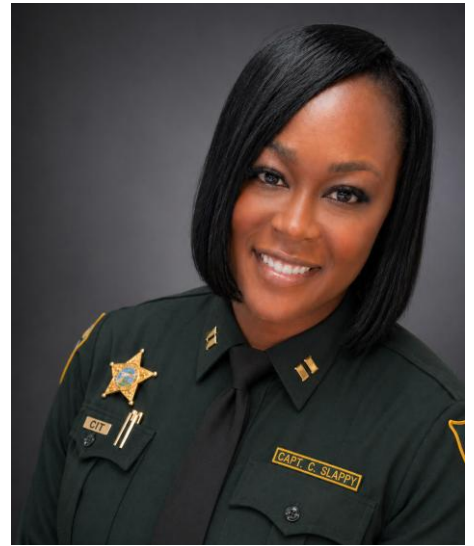
He can be reached at dcape@bleckley.org.

Founder, Gregory Phillips

Leading with Purpose: Captain Carla Slappy's Impact on Corrections

Recently, Captain Carla Slappy of the Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention caught the attention of CODIN through her leadership-focused outreach, positive engagement within the corrections profession, and the way she uses her voice to encourage growth, professionalism, and connection across the field.

Throughout the conversation, one thing became clear: Captain Slappy's approach to leadership is centered on people, connection, and creating a lasting impact both inside and outside the walls of the institution. Captain Slappy entered the corrections profession in 2004 at just 19 years old. At the time, she was a young mother focused on creating financial stability and building a secure future for her family. What began as an opportunity quickly grew into a career rooted in service, mentorship, and leadership.



Broward Sheriff's Office, Captain Carla Slappy

"This year marks 22 years in the corrections field," she shared. "During that time, I have gained extensive experience and a strong commitment to serving in the profession."

Today, she serves as Captain of the largest jail facility in Broward County, Florida, overseeing a male inmate population within medium- and maximum-custody classifications. Throughout her career, she has worked in several operational areas including inmate booking and release, hospital details, inmate transportation, court operations, and confinement status services. Those assignments gave her firsthand experience in the complexity of detention operations and the importance of teamwork across multiple disciplines. While her operational background is extensive, much of the conversation focused less on rank and more on leadership, growth, and investing in others.

Supporting new officers and developing future leaders has become one of the most meaningful parts of her career. Since 2015, Captain Slappy has served as an Adjunct Instructor at Broward College, helping train correctional officer cadets through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement curriculum. She explained that beyond policy and procedure, recruits benefit most from real-life experiences and honest conversations about the realities of the profession. "I incorporate real-life experiences and practical scenarios based on common and emerging issues within our facilities to better prepare recruits for the realities of the profession," she explained.

Her commitment to leadership development also extended beyond the classroom. After recognizing the challenges newly promoted Sergeants faced transitioning into supervisory roles, she developed a leadership course designed to better prepare first-line supervisors. What originally began as a four-hour training eventually expanded into a full 40-hour orientation program that included instruction from subject matter experts across multiple specialized areas.

The course focused on topics such as leadership responsibilities, emotional intelligence, adapting to change, professionalism, report writing, PREA compliance, jail management systems, and decision-making.

Through all of it, one theme remained consistent: growth never stops.

"Never stop learning!!" Captain Slappy shared. "Seek out mentors who can provide guidance, honest feedback and accountability."

That same mindset toward innovation and problem-solving was recognized in 2025 when she received the Broward Sheriff's Office Exceptional Service Award. The recognition was awarded for the development of a system that provided outside agencies with real-time visibility into the inmate booking process. The project improved communication, streamlined operations, and helped reduce uncertainty surrounding officer wait times during the booking process. Rather than waiting for change to happen, Captain Slappy believes in identifying problems and actively working toward solutions.



"Corrections is a field where many practices have been repeated for years simply because 'that's the way we've always done it,'" she explained. "However, technology, operational demands, social trends, workplace culture, and inmate populations are constantly evolving. To remain effective, we must be willing to evolve as well." Outside of facility operations, Captain Slappy has also remained deeply involved in community outreach efforts throughout her career. From participating in Career Day events and reading to elementary students to supporting youth programs and community engagement initiatives, she believes relationship-building plays an important role in strengthening public trust and improving understanding of the corrections profession. She also spoke passionately about helping bridge the gap between law enforcement and corrections while bringing greater awareness to the important role corrections professionals play in public safety.

"Law enforcement officers make arrests, and corrections professionals then assume responsibility for the care, custody, and control of those individuals," she shared. "Neither can effectively fulfill its mission without the other." At the center of Captain Slappy's leadership philosophy is a belief that professionalism and human connection go hand in hand. Whether mentoring staff, teaching cadets, or leading operational teams, she approaches leadership with authenticity and purpose. One of her final reflections captured both her leadership style and the example she hopes to leave for others entering the profession: "Strive to be known not only for what you accomplish, but for how you lead, serve, and inspire others throughout your career."

Captain Carla Slappy's passion for leadership, mentorship, and advancing the profession continues to create a lasting impact across corrections, making her a top professional to network with.



Building Bridges Across Corrections

**By: Taggart Boyd, Deputy Assistant Director
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services**

Over the course of my career, I have had the opportunity to work across multiple correctional facilities, public and private environments, and across state systems in both Ohio and Nebraska. My experiences have certainly opened my mind and turned my focus on efforts to make our systems more effective. One lesson that has remained consistent is this: we cannot be as effective as we need to be if we operate in silos. I too have made that mistake. Withholding ideas because you don't want others to do as well as you or take credit for your ideas or work. Over time you realize that those silos end up slowing progress. What I have found is some folks can generate ideas that others can build upon. A vision is great, but it needs people to carry it out, and people who are out there just to steal ideas likely can't develop them.



Deputy Assistant Director, Taggart Boyd

Corrections, like many other industries, often functions in separate lanes. Even within the same agency, different divisions, facilities, and teams may be focused on their own immediate responsibilities. Outside of the agency, we may only connect with other state agencies, law enforcement partners, or neighboring states when a specific need arises or when an incident forces us to work together. That approach limits our ability to be efficient, proactive, and prepared. This process is not a new one, but it is still in need of further development. As a hockey player and fan, I recently watched the movie "Miracle". Rallying around a common purpose is the most powerful tool we have. For a team of college hockey players to win the gold medal against the best players across the world is amazing. They had to work as a unit to achieve success. Getting our agencies to break down internal silos and understanding that we have common ground across agencies needs to be our rallying cry.

We are working to change that mindset. Cooperation should not be something we turn to only out of necessity. It should be part of how we do business. By sharing information, ideas, lessons learned, and resources, we can make better use of our time and energy. We can identify problems earlier, respond more effectively, and build stronger systems before a crisis occurs. This kind of change does not happen all at once. We have to start somewhere. That starts with networking, building relationships, and opening dialogue with people inside our own agency and with partners outside of it. The more we communicate, the more opportunities we create to solve problems together. Eventually, the right people, working with the right purpose, will get us where we need to go. Efforts in this direction are an important part of that progress. They create space for collaboration, shared learning, and stronger partnerships. If we continue to invest in those efforts, we will become more efficient, more connected, and better prepared to meet the challenges ahead. If my career has taught me anything, it is that progress rarely comes from one person working alone. It comes from people who are willing to listen, share, challenge each other, and move toward a common purpose. The work is too important for us to protect our own lanes. It is time to build bridges between them.

AI Communication in Corrections - Let's Talk About It

By: Alishia McColl, Chief Investigator
Washington Department of Corrections
CODIN West Coast Representative



Artificial intelligence technology is moving fast in corrections. What once seemed “unlikely” is accessible inside prisons right now. The reality is this technology is no longer theoretical, and corrections professionals need to begin having serious conversations about the operational and safety implications that come with it.

Recently, investigative staff within Washington State identified the use of an AI-driven communication platform operating within its facilities. What immediately stood out was not simply the existence of the platform itself, but how easily incarcerated individuals could access smart AI technology capable of engaging in direct conversation and responding to questions in real time. The platform operates by family members or outside contacts creating accounts and paying monthly subscription fees on behalf of incarcerated individuals. Once the account is created, the incarcerated individual will be assigned a phone number to call, immediately connecting them to the platform’s AI communication system. Full disclosure...discovering this AI technology was by accident. “Hey what is this,” and curiosity is what led one deep dive after another. Ultimately ending up with, “Oh, we have a problem.”

As investigators reviewed communications associated with the platform, several concerns quickly emerged. During one call, an incarcerated individual was observed asking questions involving how to locate information on staff members, access the dark web, identify online pen pal platforms, and obtain information involving medications. Investigators also identified AI-facilitated group communication chatrooms under categories such as “Rehab for Suckers,” where incarcerated individuals were merged together into unauthorized communication environments through the platform itself. From a security standpoint, this raised immediate concerns regarding coordinated activity, information sharing, and communication occurring outside traditional monitored systems. You could hear the conversation but couldn’t identify the location of every incarcerate who called into it.

I put a call into my network *on other side of the country* and learned, when accounts are first made the incarcerate will speak to a human, and this is done to prevent corrections staff and law enforcement from being able to create accounts. This was confirmed when a phone number was traced back to its origin. There was the human on the other end confirming they were incarcerated. After that...it’s all AI technology. *It’s only a matter of time before those AI responses cross the threshold into dangerous territory for staff and the public.*

These platforms appeared to market themselves toward incarcerated populations and their families. Investigators observed mass influx of solicit letters to the incarcerated encouraging family members and outside contacts to create accounts on their behalf. Many correctional agencies already have strict policies prohibiting unauthorized third-party communication platforms, yet some families may not fully understand the security concerns or institutional restrictions associated with these systems. For corrections professionals, this should serve as an important awareness discussion.

Artificial intelligence is now advancing faster than many agencies can fully assess operationally, and the gap between awareness and preparedness creates risk.

This is also why conversations surrounding the responsible use of AI technology counter measures inside corrections are becoming increasingly important. Corrections professionals are already overwhelmed by the volume of information generated daily through phone systems, reports, intelligence gathering efforts, and video surveillance infrastructure. Staff cannot physically monitor everything simultaneously. Responsible AI technology designed to identify emergency events, violence indicators, self-harm concerns, overdose indicators, or strategic communication alerts may eventually become necessary to help agencies respond faster and more effectively while still maintaining human oversight and decision-making.

What Washington identified should not be viewed as an isolated issue. It should serve as an opportunity for agencies across the country to begin having conversations, sharing information, and building stronger professional networks around how emerging AI technologies impact correctional environments. Artificial intelligence is already entering correctional settings whether agencies fully recognize it yet or not.

The question now is not whether these conversations should happen, but whether we are prepared to work together, learn from one another, and proactively address the operational realities around us.



Emerging Gang Intelligence - Gorilla Gangster Crips

By: Jenni Holste, CJS Investigator
North Carolina Special Operations and Intelligence Unit

New intelligence has been discovered regarding what appears to be a self-described organization identifying itself as Gorilla Gangster Crips (GGC) Information obtained through correspondence and organizational documents suggests the group claims origins in 2023 and presents itself as a new gang under the Gangster Crips banner. The documents describe a hierarchical organization utilizing titles such as "Silverback," "Rampage," "Black Gorilla," and "Gorillette," while referencing concepts such as "walls," "skreets," "lines," and an "ATS system." The author further claims connections to established Crip members and founders associated with South Ocean Side Gangster Crips (San Diego, California) and outlines a chain-of-command, promotion process, and governance structure intended to control membership and organizational expansion.



The recovered documents suggest GGC is actively attempting to establish legitimacy through references to traditional gang culture, organizational rules, lineage, and claimed affiliations with recognized Crip members. The correspondence details efforts to recruit and retain members, assign leadership positions, create new organizational "lines," and expand influence into additional geographic areas. The documents also reference internal governance procedures, voting mechanisms, disciplinary expectations, promotional pathways, and the creation of written organizational guidelines, indicating an effort to formalize the group.

At this time, the validity of the claims contained within the documents has not been independently verified. Additional intelligence is needed to determine whether GGC functions as a legitimate gang within the Gangster Crip movement. The North Carolina Department of Adult Correction's Special Operations & Intelligence Unit is requesting any available intelligence regarding Gorilla Gangster Crips (GGC) or affiliated members. Agencies are encouraged to report whether this group has been identified within their area of responsibility (AOR), provide known member information, photographs, tattoos, symbols, graffiti, social media accounts, criminal activity, organizational structure, and any other intelligence that may assist in assessing the legitimacy, scope, and potential threat posed by this organization.

The Things We Don't Talk About in Corrections: Need to Know vs. Want to Know

By: Pete Bludworth, Founder of Corrections Unfiltered Podcast

Few phrases frustrate correctional employees more than:
"I'm sorry, I can't share that information."

To some employees, it feels secretive. To others, it feels disrespectful. And to leadership, it can feel like the only responsible answer. Corrections is built on information. Yet some of our greatest challenges come not from what is shared, but from what cannot be shared and how people react when they don't get the answers they want. The tension between "need to know" and "want to know" has existed for as long as corrections has existed. And it's a conversation we don't have nearly enough.

The Big Broom...

There is a phrase I've used for years in corrections: The Big Broom. When serious allegations surface, leaders sometimes have to sweep broadly and quickly. Employees may be placed on administrative leave. Access cards are disabled. Contact with inmates is restricted. Staff are told not to enter the institution. To employees watching from the sidelines, it can feel harsh, unfair, or even an overreaction. But often the purpose of the Big Broom isn't punishment. It's protection. Protection of the institution. Protection of the investigation. Protection of witnesses. Protection of staff. And sometimes, protection of the accused employee. Leaders may have no choice but to act immediately. Waiting for every answer before taking action can create even greater risk. The Big Broom is uncomfortable. But its purpose is to protect the integrity of whatever truth eventually emerges. Silence Creates Rumors.

The problem is that when people see something happen and aren't given all the details, they fill the silence with their own explanations. Rumors begin. Assumptions become facts. Distrust grows. Corrections professionals are trained to gather information. Unfortunately, when official information is unavailable, we sometimes become exceptionally good at creating our own. The rumor often becomes more believable than the truth. And once a rumor takes hold, it can be difficult to undo the damage. Leaders Can't Always Explain Themselves Leaders are often accused of hiding information. Sometimes that's true. But many times they are protecting the investigation, protecting employee privacy, or simply don't know enough yet to speak confidently. Experienced correctional leaders understand that allegations are not facts. Witness statements can conflict. Initial reports can be incomplete. Rumors spread faster than evidence. And facts that appear obvious on day one may look very different after interviews are completed, video is reviewed, and investigators have gathered all available information. Leadership has a responsibility to allow the investigation to take its course.

Making decisions before all the facts are known risks creating injustice for the employee, the institution, and everyone affected by the outcome. Only after the investigation is complete and the facts are known can leadership fully apply its experience, training, and judgment to determine the appropriate outcome. The decision should rest on facts—not assumptions, rumors, or pressure to act before the truth is known.



Trust Doesn't Require Knowing Everything. Employees are asked to trust a process they cannot fully see. Leadership is asked to make decisions before they have all the answers. Neither side gets exactly what they want. Employees want certainty. Leadership wants patience. Both are often in short supply. There are times when an employee who is being held accountable will create a villain to avoid acknowledging the choices or behavior that led to the situation in the first place. Leadership may be blamed. Coworkers may be blamed. Policies may be blamed. And because leadership is often restricted from discussing the details of an investigation, employees hearing only one side of the story may assume they know the truth when, in reality, they know only a portion of it. There are witness statements they haven't read. There are videos they haven't seen. There are interviews they were never part of. And there are often legal or privacy restrictions that prevent leadership from sharing what they know. That silence can be frustrating. But silence is not proof that leadership is wrong.

And a rumor is not proof that leadership is hiding something. Trust is not blind agreement. Trust is believing that the process is fair, even when you are not allowed to see every piece of it. When the Investigation Starts Talking One of the most uncomfortable situations in corrections occurs when an employee under investigation begins discussing the matter with coworkers. Sometimes it's an attempt to gain sympathy. Sometimes it's an attempt to influence witnesses. And sometimes it's an attempt to create a villain. But employees should pause and ask themselves an important question: Why would someone who has been instructed not to discuss an investigation be discussing it with me? I've seen employees tell close friends exactly what happened—or at least the version of events they wanted others to believe. Their friends listen. Out of loyalty, they keep quiet. Then the investigation concludes. The employee is suspended, demoted, terminated, or criminally charged. And leadership learns that others knew the employee was discussing the matter despite being instructed not to. Now the circle of accountability expands. Not because those employees committed the original misconduct. But because they failed to report that someone under investigation was discussing the matter when they had been instructed not to.

Employees should also understand that these conversations don't have to happen in the institution. They may happen through phone calls. Text messages. Social media. Group chats. Or through another person acting as the messenger. I've heard employees say: *"I was off duty when that happened."* But when it comes to protecting the integrity of an investigation, there is no "off duty." If someone under investigation has been instructed not to discuss the matter and chooses to do so anyway, the location of the conversation doesn't change the concern. Loyalty is admirable. Friendship matters. But neither should come at the expense of the integrity of an investigation.

Final Thoughts...

Employees don't automatically have a right to every detail. And leaders don't always have the luxury of sharing every fact. The Big Broom is rarely comfortable. It can be painful, misunderstood, and disruptive. But when used appropriately and followed by a fair, fact-based process, it is not a sign that leadership has already made up its mind.

It is a sign that leadership understands the stakes are too high to get it wrong. Because the most difficult part of corrections isn't always discovering the truth. Sometimes it's leading people through uncertainty while the truth is still being uncovered.

Drone Contraband Deliveries Increasing Across U.S. Prisons

Federal and state agencies across the country are reporting a significant increase in drone-related contraband drops involving drugs, weapons, cellphones, SIM cards, and other prohibited items entering correctional facilities. Recent federal indictments allege coordinated drone operations targeting multiple federal prisons across several states. Additional incidents in New York facilities have intensified national conversations surrounding drone interdiction, contraband prevention, and emerging security technology.

[12 charged with allegedly using drones to smuggle contraband into prisons - ABC News](#)

Contraband Cellphone Legislation Continues Gaining National Attention

Federal lawmakers continue pushing legislation aimed at addressing contraband cellphone use within correctional facilities. The proposed "Cellphone Jamming Reform Act" would allow state and federal correctional agencies to utilize cellphone jamming systems within facilities to disrupt unauthorized communication devices. National discussions continue surrounding officer safety, organized criminal activity, and crimes coordinated from inside correctional institutions using contraband phones.

[Kustoff, Cotton Introduce Legislation to Jam Cellphones in Prisons | Congressman David Kustoff](#)

Bureau of Prisons Highlights Growing Contraband Threats

The Federal Bureau of Prisons recently issued statements emphasizing the increasing threat posed by contraband entering correctional institutions nationwide, including drugs, weapons, and unauthorized communication devices. National attention continues focusing on how evolving technology and organized smuggling methods are impacting institutional safety, staff security, and public safety concerns.

[BOP: Growing Threat of Contraband in the Bureau of Prisons](#)