



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

141 WEST ELM * WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 * TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264 * FAX: (316) 660-3248

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE AFTER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH,

2006 AT 9:00 A.M.

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 2006
AGENCY: SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LOCATION: WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264
CONTACT: SHERIFF GARY STEED

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES THE INSTALLATION OF NINETY (90) ADDITIONAL BEDS IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY. WORKING WITH THE SEDGWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL, THIS ACTION IS PART OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MASTER PLAN TO ADDRESS THE INMATE POPULATION. THE LAST EXPANSION TO THE JAIL IN 2000 INCREASED HOUSING CAPACITY TO APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND THIRTY-TWO (1,032) GENERAL POPULATION BEDS. BY THE END OF 2005, THE SHERIFF WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AN AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION OF ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND ONE (1,501) PRISONERS – THE RESULT OF OVER THIRTY-THREE THOUSAND (33,000) ARRESTEES BROUGHT TO THE JAIL DURING THE YEAR.

M – O – R – E

WHILE NOT ALL OF THESE INMATES WERE HOUSED IN THE DETENTION FACILITY, OVER ELEVEN HUNDRED (1,100) INMATES WERE. WITH THE WORK RELEASE FACILITY ALSO AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, AN AVERAGE OF TWO HUNDRED AND FOUR (204) PRISONERS WERE CONTRACTUALLY HOUSED IN OTHER COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF KANSAS.

INCREASING JAIL CAPACITY IS NOT MERELY A MATTER OF ADDING MORE BEDS AND THE RELATED EQUIPMENT. CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO COMPLIANCE OF THOSE STANDARDS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES: MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES; VISITATION AND EXERCISE SPACE – JUST TO NAME A FEW EXAMPLES. THE STAFF AND PHYSICAL SPACE DESIGNED FOR 1,032 INMATES IS INCAPABLE OF ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF 1,500 INMATES. ADDITIONAL BEDS WERE PLACED IN EIGHT (8) OF THE LOWER-LEVEL CELLS IN ALL OF THE DIRECT HOUSING UNITS. ADDITIONAL BEDS WERE ALSO PLACED IN ALL OF THE DORMITORY STYLE HOUSING UNITS.

SHERIFF GARY STEED WILL HOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE ON THIS TOPIC THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, AT 9:00 A.M. THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE 2ND FLOOR DETENTION CONFERENCE ROOM, 141 W. ELM, WICHITA, KS. A DVD WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THE NEWS MEDIA SHOWING THE NEW CONFIGURATION.

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