



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

31-33 Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

Ph. – 623-2441-8 Fax – 627-8044

Email – [mns@tstt.net.tt](mailto:mns@tstt.net.tt)

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Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House  
Parliament  
Levels G-8, Tower D  
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre  
1A Wrightson Road  
Port of Spain

Dear Mrs. Sampson-Meiguel,

**Re: An Inquiry into Prison Security and the Status of Investigation into the Port-of-Spain Prison Break of July 24, 2015**

Your letter *Parl.: 14/3/43 Vol. V*, dated July 07, 2017 on the subject above, refers.

In this regard, please find attached the requested information.

Yours respectfully,

Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of National Security

**PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

**THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY'S RESPONSE TO THE  
FOURTH REPORT OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
*An Inquiry into Prison Security and the Status of Investigation into the Port-of-  
Spain Prison Break of July 24, 2015***

**Recommendation (i):**

The Public Service Commission treat as a priority the completion of the disciplinary proceedings arising out of the investigation of the events surrounding the Port-Of Spain Prison break, given that this incident occurred on July 24, 2015.

**Response:**

A disciplinary Tribunal was appointed to hear the charges preferred against three (3) Prison Officers arising out of the events of July 24, 2015 at the Port of Spain Prison. The matter was first called on February 16, 2017 to hear the charges of Neglect of Duty Contrary to Regulation (20) (2) (d) (iii) of the Prison Service (Code of Conduct) Regulations against namely: Prisons Supervisor (formerly acting Superintendent of Prisons), Wilbert Lovell; Prisons Officer II, Lancelot Duntin and Prison Officer II (Ag), Mervyn Pierre. On this date the prosecution advised the Tribunal of a legal submission it had made to the Public Service Commission, for its consideration and directive. In the circumstances the matter was adjourned to March 27, 2017.

On March 27, 2017 the matter was called and then adjourned to May 25, 2017. This was due to the fact that the Public Service Commission had not yet responded to the original submission and the fact that the third member of the disciplinary Tribunal was absent due to illness and was expected to be fit again with effect from (w.e.f) May 25, 2017.

When the matter was called on May 25, 2017 the prosecution advised the Tribunal that having regard to the Public Service Commission's response to its earlier request for a legal directive, it had made a further request for two (2) additional counts of the charge of 'Neglect of Duty' to be added to the original count of 'Neglect of Duty'; given the particulars identified in the file. The Defence also advised that it wished to make a submission for discontinuance

of proceedings under Public Service Regulation 98 (1) (c); the prosecution was given a deadline to respond, and the matter was subsequently adjourned to Thursday July 13, 2017. The matter was called on July 13, 2017 at which time it was adjourned to September 28, 2017, owing to the fact that the Public Service Commission had not as yet responded to the Defence's discontinuance Submission made under Public Service Commission Regulation 98 (1) (c).

**Recommendation (ii):**

The Ministry of National Security give immediate attention to the recommendations made by the Commissioner of Prison for improvement in Prison security. These recommendations are listed in Appendix I-B.

**Response:**

The recommendations as listed in Appendix I-B related to four main areas identified hereunder:-

**CCTV MONITORING SYSTEM**

**Updated Position RE: Video Surveillance System in the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service**

The current installation configuration of the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service is no longer efficient, secure and in line with its Information Technology (IT) development plan for the Prison Service in terms of enterprise networking. As a result of the aforementioned, it has become important and necessary to upgrade the system to bring it in line with the IT drive. This is to allow for best practice in Video Surveillance Systems installation networking, thus improving the confidentiality, integrity and authenticity of the TTPrS system. The three main areas identified which are critical in achieving these objectives are **Software, Hardware, and Networking Upgrade.**

## **Software**

The 'ONSSI Netguard-Evs' is the current Video Management Software (VMS) used at the Port of Spain, Tobago, Golden Grove, Women Prison, ERF and Youth Training Centre. This software is stable and has served the TTPrS well over the years, but unfortunately it has been discontinued and is no longer supported by its developer, ONSSI.

The new Video Management Software that is being offered by ONSSI, is the Ocularis, this software is one of the most deployed Video Management Software around the world due to its reliability and investigative features. The Firm ONSSI has upgraded the TTPrS Video Surveillance Management System software to the Ocularis 5.0 single Base free of charge. This has meant that all the existing devices (cameras, and servers) are licensed to the new software. It also means that only one server can have the base license, and any new cameras purchased will need to be licensed to the Ocularis 5.0 software. However, it is noted that the new software has not yet been fully deployed across all the Prisons because of issues in the areas of: hardware compatibility, license, networking and configuration.

The Maximum Security Prison's (MSP's) IP Surveillance System would be using the VideoXpert by Pelco Video Management Software. This system was chosen because it was the only one that was integrating successfully and therefore compatible with the Electronic Security System at the Maximum Security Prison.

## **Hardware**

As a result of the upgrade of the Video Management System to the new Oularis, it has become necessary to upgrade the existing servers and client machines to meet the requirements of the new Video Management System at the various Prisons. It must be borne in mind that the Video Surveillance System at the various Prisons were installed approximately eight (8) years ago. At that time the hardware that came with those systems was sufficient to run the then Video Management System. However, the current upgraded Ocularis and all other VMS's presently on the Market require greater speed (64 bit i5 or greater processor, more RAM memory minimum 4GB, and advanced graphic cards etc. for functionality).

## Networking

Currently all Prison installations are independent of each other and operating as silos due to geographical location. In order to implement a command centre as is proposed, all the Prisons need to be networked. However, the constraints are the distance between the facilities and cost (cost of linking the facility via installation of its own fibre - a one-time investment - or to use the Service Providers fibre infrastructure - a recurring cost). Currently, at the Golden Grove and the Maximum Security Prisons, all the buildings are networked via fiber optic, a security fiber network dedicated for the CCTV and other Security Systems.

## Command Centre

The implementation of a Command Centre, as is proposed, would require all Prisons to be networked as well as some Hardware upgrades. In the initial stage, the most important item for the TTPrS is the new IP Video Surveillance System which has been contracted and is now being installed at the Maximum Security Prison. There is also the VideoXpert and the Ocularis VMS installed on the Fence Project MSP, they both have the ability and the capacity to be the Command System.

The following Table provides a listing of all video surveillance cameras presently deployed within the TTPrS, it also identifies the areas being monitored and those which are yet beyond video surveillance capacity at this time.

Station	Total cameras	Areas being monitored/not monitored
<b>Women's Prison</b>	Twenty One (21)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> Prison building, visiting area and the main gate. <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> perimeter fence, exercise yard, Juvenile Division, dining hall, lobby room and School.
<b>Youth Training Centre</b>	Four (4)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> only the front of the facility is being monitored, that is, the roadway leading to the gate, the car park, and pedestrian gate. <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> perimeter fence, interior of the facility; corridors, halls, Tech-Voc. area.

<b>ECRC (Santa Rosa)</b>	Thirty Four (34)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> At this facility there is monitoring of most major areas main Prison, exercise yard, front gate, perimeter, and car park.
<b>Port-of-Spain Prison</b>	Fifty Two (52)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> at the Port of Spain Prison most of the facility is monitored. The interior of the Prison, the exercise yards, condemn Divisions, the airing yards, and the internal and external perimeter. <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> the infirmary, ration room trade shop areas.
<b>Tobago Prison</b>	Ten (10)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> the exercise yard, internal area of the Prison, main gate, and the perimeter of the facility.
<b>ERF (High Security Division at GGP)</b>	Twenty five (25)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> all the Divisions, the exercise yard, and lobby area, (this system is offline). <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> bathroom areas (Privacy Issues)
<b>Golden Grove Prison</b>	Seven (7)	<b>Monitored areas:</b> front gate, sally port and car park. <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> the perimeter and internal of the Prison.
<b>Remand Prison</b>	None	An executive decision to be made for the implementation of a System.
<b>Carrera Prison</b>	None	Implementation of a system at the Prison was included in the 2018 Draft estimates
<b>Maximum Security Prison</b>	Estimated One Hundred and Sixty-two (162)	Currently the project to install an IP Surveillance system is ongoing. The design and drawings are complete, equipment have been spec, and configured, Administrator Training on the Video Management System (VideoXpert) is completed and the TTPrS is awaiting delivery and installation of the system. The areas that are to be monitored are: facility perimeter, sally port, visit areas, Building Thirteen and Division AKVIT Building One. <b>Areas Not Monitored:</b> all the other Divisions in Building One and all other buildings and areas on the compound
<b>MSP Fence</b>	Estimated one hundred and forty three (143)	The installation of the CCTV system is complete.

It is the intent that the upgrade of the Video Monitoring capacity of the TTPrS continues to be part of our PSIP Development Programme. This is reflected as a key item in the 2018 budgetary proposals as we seek to achieve the Command Centre and 360 video surveillance coverage as a major static security enhancement initiative of the TTPrS.

## **Electronic Monitoring System**

### **Regulations**

The support of a Legal Officer of the Ministry of the Attorney General has been provided to have prepared the regulations policy document. This Legal Officer is currently engaged in this activity.

### **Electronic Monitoring Devices**

The Ministry has entered into discussions with iGovtt to undertake the procurement for the provision of an electronic monitoring solution. A letter has been issued to iGovtt requesting a proposal in this regard, and the Ministry is awaiting a response.

### **Staffing**

The shortlist of candidates has been presented to the office of the Permanent Secretary awaiting approval. Subsequent to this approval then interviews will be scheduled.

### **Office**

The Evaluation Committee has completed the evaluation of submitted tenders and a recommendation has been put forward to the office of the Permanent Secretary for approval to award and have a contract prepared.

### **Police response mechanism**

The Implementation Committee has completed its deliberations on this matter and the outcome has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Police. The Ministry is awaiting the response of the Commissioner on this matter.

## **The Introduction/Formation of a Task Force dedicated to Prison specific issues, as part of the wider National Intelligence Network**

Discussions are on-going on this proposed initiative.

## **The creation of a Prison Intelligence Unit**

This project is considered to be paramount in relation to improving both the internal dynamic security network within the Prisons and also as a key support to National Security intelligence gathering. The present arrangement is largely ad hoc and informal gathering of data and information sharing with other National Security agencies. It is the intent to move this system to a formal, fully staffed, fully functional integrated system, that covers all Prison institutions, that allows for data collection at the source, analysis, and generation of intelligence to drive our security operations and deployment of resources, all geared towards the objective of enhancing internal security at the Prisons towards improving wider public safety.

To this end, the Honourable Minister granted approval for a contingent of Prison Officers to visit the Correctional Services Canada (CSC) between the period June 28, 2017 to July 25, 2017, where they engaged in a complete review of the role of Intelligence within the Federal Prison System of Canada. The gaps between our situation and that system were identified and a recommendation is forthcoming in the Contingent Report for consideration of the Minister in relation to the establishment of a formal Intelligence Unit within the TTPrS.

Work has already begun internally towards preparing proposals for the strategic objectives, organisational and operational structure, staffing requirements, developmental training needs, housing and other physical resources that will be necessary to advance this Unit as well as the parameters of its operations.