



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MANAGEMENT ADVISORY MEMORANDUM

26-001

OCTOBER 2025

Notification of Concerns Regarding Conditions
at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute

EVALUATION & INSPECTIONS DIVISION



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 1, 2025

Management Advisory Memorandum

To: William K. Marshall III
Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons

From: William M. Blier
Acting Inspector General

Subject: Notification of Concerns Regarding Conditions at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) of the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) concerns regarding conditions observed during a recent OIG site visit of the medium-security prison at Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Terre Haute, which is a part of Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Terre Haute.¹ We identified issues with temperature regulation, sanitation, and infrastructure that can negatively affect the safety and security of staff and inmates at FCI Terre Haute. Specifically, during our site visit from July 28 through July 30, 2025, the OIG measured temperatures as high as 89 degrees Fahrenheit (F) in inmate housing units, found unsanitary conditions in food storage areas, and observed broken or damaged windows in inmate cells and common areas. The OIG identified these concerns while conducting site work at FCI Terre Haute as part of our evaluation examining the BOP's use of lockdowns and modified operations.

Background and Prior OIG Work²

Through our prior oversight work, we have found that multiple BOP facilities have experienced temperature regulation issues and broader infrastructure challenges. For example, both our 2019 inspection and review of Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn and our 2024 inspection of FCI Lewisburg identified institution temperatures outside of ranges set in BOP policy and found that these institutions lacked reliable methods to regulate and measure temperatures. In addition, while conducting concurrent inspections of food service operations at six BOP institutions in 2024, we identified temperature concerns. We recorded a temperature of 93 degrees F in a kitchen area at FCI Marianna. At FCC Pollock, we recorded a temperature of 86 degrees F in a kitchen area; one Food Service Department employee described the kitchen as "extremely hot" and stated that inmates were working in "brutal heat." Additionally, in 2023, we reported on serious food safety

¹ FCC Terre Haute is composed of FCI Terre Haute, which includes a medium-security prison, a satellite minimum-security prison camp, and U.S. Penitentiary Terre Haute, a high-security prison.

² See [Appendix 1](#) for references to prior OIG work and relevant BOP policy and guidance.

issues at FCI Tallahassee, where we observed unsanitary conditions including likely evidence of rodent droppings in food storage areas.

More broadly, as described in our 2024 *Top Management and Performance Challenges* report, the BOP is in need of extensive repairs to address infrastructure deficiencies across its 122 institutions, which the BOP has estimated would total \$3 billion. Our May 2023 audit report of the BOP's *Efforts to Maintain and Construct Institutions* recommended that the BOP needed to develop an infrastructure strategy to increase the overall effectiveness of facilities management and that it needed to implement key performance indicators to track its progress toward meeting its infrastructure goals. As of September 2025, the BOP was taking actions to address these recommendations but they remained open.

The Issues of Concern

BOP policy sets a temperature target of 76 degrees F for its institutions during the summer, with qualifying language stating that “occupants may experience a range of temperatures in their space that is a few degrees on either side of the targeted set point.” The BOP’s Clinical Guidance on the Prevention and Management of Heat-Related Illness, which warns of the risk factors associated with heat-related illness, states that high ambient air temperature and humidity are the primary underlying risks for heat-related illness and that evaporation becomes less effective in dissipating heat as humidity increases and becomes totally ineffective at humidity levels greater than 75 percent. On July 28 and July 29, 2025, when outside temperatures reached highs of 92 degrees F and 93 degrees F, respectively, we measured temperatures in FCI Terre Haute housing unit common areas and cells that ranged from 79 to 89 degrees F. In addition to high temperatures, we found that humidity levels in these areas ranged from 62 to 94 percent. Inmates and staff we spoke with during the site visit described the heat as having negative effects on the conditions of confinement for inmates.



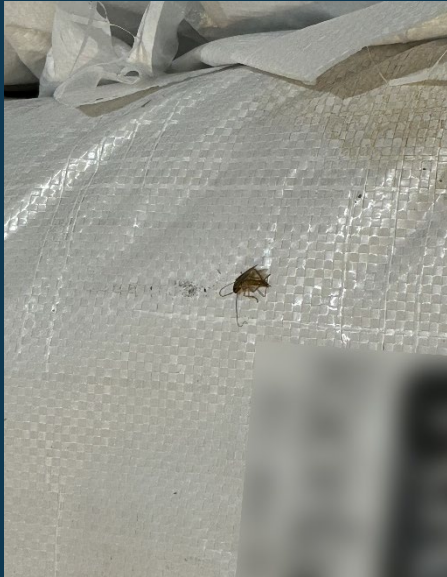
Left, OIG Measurement of 89 Degrees F, with 79 Percent Humidity, in an Inmate Cell, *Right*, OIG Measurement of 79 Degrees F, with 94 Percent Humidity, in an Inmate Cell

Source: OIG, July 28, 2025 (Text Overlays and Arrows Added for Clarity, Product Information Blurred)

Although some staff-occupied areas were cooled by window air-conditioning units, we learned that only 2 of the 10 active housing units at FCI Terre Haute are air-conditioned. According to FCI Terre Haute Facilities Department staff, the existing infrastructure of the institution makes it ill-suited for the installation of air-conditioning equipment in all housing units. In non-air-conditioned housing units, FCI Terre Haute installed

pedestal, wall mount, and other fans in common areas. Some inmates had small fans, which can be purchased from the institution's commissary, in their cells. However, inmates may not be able to purchase fans if they are unable to afford them and the institution does not provide these fans to inmates free of charge.

Temperature regulation issues were not limited to inmate living spaces. In a food storage area containing dry and canned goods, we measured a temperature of 88 degrees F at the time of our site visit, which is above the recommended range of 45 degrees F to 80 degrees F in BOP policy for shelf-stable foods. We also observed evidence of pests in this area, which was a clear food safety issue. Specifically, we found both insects and likely evidence of insect and rodent droppings, as shown in the photographs below.



Top Left, Insect on a Bag of Rice; *Top Right*, Likely Insect Droppings on a Bag of Rice; *Bottom*, Likely Rodent Droppings Adjacent to Bags of Rice

Source: OIG, July 28, 2025 (Product Information Blurred in Top Photographs)

In addition to elevated temperatures and concerning conditions in food storage areas, the OIG found broken or damaged windows, which pose security risks for the institution, in inmate cells and common areas. According to FCI Terre Haute documentation, “the window frames at FCI Terre Haute are in a state of disrepair. They are part of the original construction from 1940. They are rusting and deteriorating to a point where they are so brittle that window panes fall out and safety and security of the institution is in question.” We observed makeshift repairs with the use of cardboard to cover missing or damaged panes, tape to cover damaged panes, and a towel creating a seal between the window and the wall.



Left, Housing Unit Bathroom Window with a Missing Pane, Rusting Edges, and Exposed Masonry at the Edge of the Frame, Right, Cell Windowpane Covered with Cardboard and a Towel Stuffed in the Top Right of the Window Frame

Source: OIG, July 28, 2025 (Product Information Blurred in Right Photograph)

FCI Terre Haute estimated that replacement of the windows at the institution would cost approximately \$15.9 million. Replacement of the windows, however, account for approximately 15 percent of the over \$108 million in estimated major repair needs at FCI Terre Haute, based on documentation prepared by local staff and detailed in [Appendix 2](#).³ Further, the estimated \$108 million includes repairs that are specific to the medium-security prison at FCI Terre Haute only; it does not include repairs that would impact other locations at the Terre Haute complex (i.e., FCI Terre Haute's minimum-security camp and U.S. Penitentiary Terre Haute).

³ See [Appendix 2](#) for a table detailing the unfunded major repair projects identified by the FCC Terre Haute Facilities Department and the associated costs.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The primary purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification of the OIG's observations of concerning conditions at FCI Terre Haute. As described above, we measured temperatures as high as 89 degrees F and humidity levels as high as 94 percent in inmate housing units, found unsanitary conditions in food storage areas, and observed broken or damaged windows in inmate cells and common areas. We recognize that the outside temperatures at the time of our site visit were high (92 and 93 degrees F) and that the conditions may evolve seasonally, potentially rendering the temperature deviations we observed inside the institution less acute at this time. Nevertheless, our observations indicate that the institution is not consistently able to maintain temperatures within prescribed ranges and raise concerns about the conditions of confinement and food safety. Further, our observations of broken and damaged windows raise concerns about the security of the institution. Moreover, the infrastructure-related issues cited in this notification represent just a fraction of the areas that need attention—not only at FCI Terre Haute but also across BOP facilities, with many institutions in significant disrepair.

Our 2023 audit of the BOP's *Efforts to Maintain and Construct Institutions* made two recommendations involving the development of an infrastructure strategy and key performance indicators to address infrastructure-related issues at BOP institutions. We are providing this notification to help inform the BOP—as it evaluates the relative priority of its varied and voluminous infrastructure needs as part of ongoing actions responsive to these open recommendations and as it determines how it will deploy resources available for needs in this area, including up to \$2 billion for BOP institution repairs provided by recent legislation.

In addition to the OIG's existing recommendations involving BOP infrastructure, given the conditions we observed at FCI Terre Haute, we recommend that the BOP:

1. Identify methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, particularly for inmates susceptible to heat-related illness.
2. Determine the scope of the pest control problem within the dry-food storage areas at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute and address it.
3. Until permanent repairs planned by the BOP can be completed at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, assess what steps can be taken to mitigate safety and security risks associated with window disrepair and make temporary repairs to the windows that present the greatest potential safety and security risks at the institution.

cc: James McHenry
Acting Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General and Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General

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Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Appendix 1: Prior OIG Work and Relevant BOP Policy and Guidance

1. DOJ OIG, *Review and Inspection of Metropolitan Detention Center Brooklyn Facilities Issues and Related Impacts on Inmates*, Evaluation and Inspections (E&I) Report 19-04 (September 2019)
2. DOJ OIG, *Inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Federal Correctional Institution Lewisburg*, E&I Report 24-113 (September 2024)
3. DOJ OIG, *Concurrent Inspections of BOP Food Service Operations*, E&I Report 25-062 (June 2025)
4. DOJ OIG, *Inspection of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Federal Correctional Institution Tallahassee*, E&I Report 24-005 (November 2023)
5. DOJ OIG, *Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing the Department of Justice-2024* (October 2024)
6. DOJ OIG, *The Federal Bureau of Prisons' Efforts to Maintain and Construct Institutions*, Audit Report 23-064 (May 2023)
7. BOP, Program Statement 4200.12, CN-2, [Facilities Operations Manual](#), March 26, 2025, www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/4200_12_CN-2.pdf (accessed August 27, 2025)
8. BOP, Clinical Guidance, [Prevention and Management of Heat-Related Illness](#), December 2017, www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/heat_related_illness.pdf (accessed August 27, 2025)
9. BOP, Program Statement 4700.07, [Food Service Manual](#), April 8, 2024, www.bop.gov/policy/progstat/4700.07.pdf (accessed September 19, 2025)

Appendix 2: Medium-Security Prison at FCI Terre Haute Major Repair Needs

The table below lists unfunded major repair projects and their associated costs as additional context for the scale of repair needs at FCI Terre Haute. This table is specific to unfunded major repairs for the medium-security prison at FCI Terre Haute; it does not include repairs that would impact other locations at FCC Terre Haute (i.e., FCI Terre Haute's minimum-security camp and U.S. Penitentiary Terre Haute).

Table 1

Medium-Security Prison at FCI Terre Haute Major Repair Needs

Project Description	Estimated Cost
Tunnel Infrastructure Upgrade	\$28,000,000
Roof Replacement	\$23,500,000
Replacement of Roof and Brick Tuck Pointing and Facade Maintenance	\$15,000,000
Lift Station Construction	\$9,300,000
Window Replacements	\$8,730,000
Window Replacements in Three Housing Units	\$7,188,000
Repair of Roofing and Masonry in Two Housing Units	\$6,600,000
Food Service Floor Replacement	\$3,150,000
Food Service Dining Hall Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning Chiller Installation	\$3,067,000
Chiller Replacement for One Housing Unit	\$1,900,000
Inner Perimeter Fence Replacement	\$1,600,000
Total	\$108,035,000

Source: FCC Terre Haute Facilities Department

Appendix 3: The BOP's Response to the Draft Memorandum



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

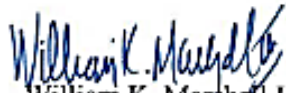
Office of the Director

Washington, DC 20534

September 29, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM M. BLIER
ACTING INSPECTOR GENERAL

FROM:


William K. Marshall III, Director

SUBJECT:

Response to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Draft Management
Advisory Memorandum (MAM): Notification of Concerns Regarding
Conditions at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute

The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) appreciates the opportunity to formally respond to the Office of the Inspector General's draft MAM entitled, Notification of Concerns Regarding Conditions at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute. The BOP values OIG's assessment regarding conditions at the Federal Correctional Institution located in Terre Haute, Indiana (FCI Terre Haute).

During a recent site visit of the medium-security prison, as part of OIG's Evaluation of the Use of Lockdowns and Modified Operations at Federal Bureau of Prisons Institutions (A-2025-002), OIG identified concerns with temperature regulation, sanitation, and infrastructure. The BOP appreciates the attention to detail in OIG's inspection of FCI Terre Haute and affirms its commitment to providing a safe environment for both employees and inmates.

FCI Terre Haute has implemented corrective action plans to address the identified concerns of high temperatures in housing units, sanitation in dry-food storage areas, and window disrepair. As highlighted in the responses in this report, the BOP mitigated the impact of elevated temperatures by purchasing new fans, enhanced pest control applications to resolve pest control issues within the dry food storage area and began the window repair process.

As noted below, the BOP concurs with all three of the OIG's recommendations and offers the following responses:

Recommendation One: Identify methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) Terre Haute.

BOP Response: The BOP concurs with this recommendation. To mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at FCI Terre Haute the institution purchased forty (40) additional fans in August 2025. The fans were received, and installation was completed on September 3, 2025.

To address concerns of potential heat related illness among staff and inmates at FCI Terre Haute the institution provided a heat stress bulletin to the inmate population via the electronic bulletin board on September 15, 2025. The bulletin provides a list of symptoms for heat exhaustion and heat stroke as well as treatment steps. A heat stress reminder was provided to staff via email on June 23, 2025. This reminder advised department heads to continually monitor staff and inmates for heat related injuries during the heat season.

Additionally, the Health Services Department reviewed records in the Bureau Electronic Medical Records (BEMR) system and confirmed no heat related illnesses were reported at FCI Terre Haute in 2025. Inmates who are considered at greater risk for heat-related illnesses are given priority placement in the G2 and G3 housing units which are climate controlled.

At this time, because FCI Terre Haute has identified methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates the BOP respectfully requests closure of this recommendation.

Recommendation Two: Determine the scope of the pest control problem within the dry-food storage areas at FCI Terre Haute and address it.

BOP Response: The BOP concurs with this recommendation. FCI Terre Haute has determined the scope of the pest control problem in the dry-food storage area and as a result modified its pest control procedures. Additional bait traps have been placed in those areas, and a local pest control service will begin enhanced pest control applications. Furthermore, the use of double stacking pallets was implemented in January 2025 to ensure food service dry stock was more than six (6) inches from the floor.

At this time, because FCI Terre Haute has determined the scope of the pest control problem and implemented additional procedures, the BOP respectfully requests closure of this recommendation.

Recommendation Three: Until permanent repairs planned by the BOP can be completed at FCI Terre Haute, assess what steps can be taken to mitigate safety and security risks associated with window disrepair and make temporary repairs to the windows that present the greatest potential safety and security risks at the institution.

BOP Response: The BOP concurs with this recommendation. To mitigate safety and security risks associated with window disrepair at FCI Terre Haute, the institution identified housing unit windows in need of repair, and work orders were submitted to the Facilities Department. The institution has received replacement glass, and repairs are currently underway. The BOP will apprise OIG of the progress on completing the window replacement.

Appendix 4: OIG Analysis of the BOP's Response

The OIG provided a draft of this report to the BOP for its comment. The BOP's response is included in [Appendix 3](#) to this memorandum. The OIG's analysis of the BOP's response and the actions necessary to close the recommendations are discussed below.

Recommendation 1

Identify methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, particularly for inmates susceptible to heat-related illness.

Status: Closed.

BOP Response: The BOP concurred with this recommendation. To mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at FCI Terre Haute, the institution purchased 40 additional fans in August 2025. The institution received the fans and installed them by September 3. Additionally, to address concerns of potential heat-related illness among staff and inmates, the institution provided a heat stress bulletin to the inmate population via the electronic bulletin board on September 15, 2025. Further, FCI Terre Haute's Health Services Department reviewed records in its electronic medical record system and confirmed that no heat-related illnesses were reported in 2025. Finally, the BOP reported that inmates who are considered at greater risk for heat-related illnesses will be given priority placement in the institution's two housing units that are climate controlled. Because FCI Terre Haute has identified methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates, the BOP requested closure of this recommendation.

OIG Analysis: As described above, the BOP has implemented methods to mitigate the impacts of elevated temperatures on staff and inmates at FCI Terre Haute, including purchasing additional fans and making available climate-controlled living quarters for inmates susceptible to heat-related illness. During future periods of high outdoor temperatures, inmates and staff at FCI Terre Haute, like those at other BOP institutions that lack air conditioning, may continue to experience institution temperatures in excess of the BOP target. However, the BOP has taken steps to mitigate the effects of these conditions, particularly on those individuals most susceptible to harm. Therefore, this recommendation is closed.

Recommendation 2

Determine the scope of the pest control problem within the dry-food storage areas at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute and address it.

Status: Resolved.

BOP Response: The BOP concurred with this recommendation and stated that it has determined the scope of the pest control problem in the dry-food storage area and, as a result, modified its pest control procedures. These modifications include the placement of bait traps and increased pest control applications in affected areas. Further, the institution is ensuring that dry-food stock is more than 6 inches from the floor. Because FCI Terre Haute has determined the scope of the pest control problem and implemented additional procedures, the BOP requested closure of this recommendation.

OIG Analysis: The BOP's actions are responsive to this recommendation. By January 4, 2026, please provide the institution's written plan for pest control and monthly pest inspection and pesticide application logs (for August through December 2025), all of which are required to be maintained by BOP policy. These documents will allow the OIG to better assess if FCI Terre Haute has appropriately determined the scope of the pest control problem and addressed it.

Recommendation 3

Until permanent repairs planned by the BOP can be completed at Federal Correctional Institution Terre Haute, assess what steps can be taken to mitigate safety and security risks associated with window disrepair and make temporary repairs to the windows that present the greatest potential safety and security risks at the institution.

Status: Resolved.

BOP Response: The BOP concurred with this recommendation. To mitigate safety and security risks associated with window disrepair at FCI Terre Haute, the institution identified housing unit windows in need of repair and work orders were submitted to the Facilities Department. The institution has received replacement glass, and repairs are currently underway. The BOP agreed to keep the OIG apprised of its progress on completing the window replacements.

OIG Analysis: The BOP's planned actions are responsive to this recommendation. By January 4, 2026, please provide an update and any documentation available to show the progress or completion of the window repair and replacement efforts.