

**TO ABANDON SHIP
OR NOT?**

That is the
question.....

N. PRICE “TREY” OLIVER, III

WARDEN, MOBILE COUNTY METRO JAIL

- Began career as a police dispatcher/jailer in 1977.
- Served 4 years in the U.S. Coast Guard
- 5 ½ years with Mobile Police Department
- Chief of police for 12 ½ years (CPD, JPD, SPD)
- Director of Public Safety, City of Saraland 3 years
- Chief Deputy MCSO Support Services for 3 ½ years
- Appointed Warden by Sheriff Sam Cochran in October, 2010
- Former President, Alabama Chiefs of Police Association, Graduate FBI National Academy 173rd Session 1993
- Instructor experience: Mobile Police Academy, Tuscaloosa Police Academy, SWAPA, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands Police Academy, Alabama Chiefs of Police Certification at Troy University, Mississippi & Louisiana Chiefs of Police Training.

CORRECTIONS

- Is a vital part of public safety.
- Is a public trust and we are her trustees.
- As Trustees, we should never violate that trust.
- As Corrections Professionals we should always be good stewards of public money.
- Our personnel walk their beats daily, surrounded by criminals, without a gun. That takes guts! Be proud of your profession.

THE “5” C’S OF CORRECTIONS

- CARE
- CUSTODY
- CONTROL
- COST CONTAINMENT

WHY ARE WE HERE TODAY?

- Because we run jails and jails are breeding grounds for violence, crime, misconduct, compromise, disease, lawsuits, federal injunctions, temptation, corruption, citizen complaints, media news stores and the list goes on.
- Because successfully managing a county jail on a good day is challenging enough, let alone when something really bad happens.
- Because there are always Jails and sometimes there are Catastrophic events, and when the two shall meet – all hell can break loose.

NO JAIL IS ENTIRELY FREE FROM RISK

- Center for Disease Control recently ordered a medical evacuation for a Sacramento California jail.
- A Prison in Colorado was recently ordered to evacuate due to an approaching wild fire.
- Still Water prison in Minnesota was had a partial evacuation due to gas leak.
- Lafourche Parish Jail was evacuated due to a fire started by inmates.
- Polk County Jail in Des Moines was evacuated for 2 days due to flooding in 2008
- Linn County Jail in Cedar Rapids was evacuated for 1 year due to flooding and flood damage.
- Mobile County Metro Jail was recently placed under shelter in place when a fuel barge on the river exploded.

CATASTROPHIC EVENTS

- Fire (inside, off site, adjacent structure, fuel truck, etc.)
- Flash floods
- Hurricane, storm surge
- Toxic chemical spill from a nearby plant or warehouse
- Nearby train derailment
- Natural Gas leak
- Tornado (Aftermath – structure breach)
- Terrorist attack, WMD, Bomb Threat, Suspicious package
- Flooding from internal source (faulty sprinkler system)
- Outbreak of severe contagious disease
- Interstate accident involving hazardous materials
- _____
- Jail evacuations occur routinely in the United States

WHAT IS AN EVACUATION?

- A temporary withdrawal action of persons from a specified area. Can be a temporary in nature for short term emergency conditions lasting only a few minutes, an hour or so as in the case of a small kitchen fire with lots of smoke. Or it could be for an extended amount of time as in a hurricane or flash flooding threats. The most difficult to plan for is the long term condition such as in the aftermath of a tornado, hurricane storm surge, flash flooding damage, etc.
- Vertical Evacuation, Emergency Evacuation, Evacuation by Default

JAIL EVACUATION

SEEK THE TRUTH – THEN ACT ON IT

- Is threat real? Perceived? Or distraction for break out plan?
- First verify/validate the threat to your facility.
- Run every detail to ground, assume nothing, challenge every report for reliability. Ask why 3 times.
- Always be aware of motives, conflicts of interest, liability, etc.
- Expect confusion, expect bad information.
- Avoid group think & personnel afraid to speak up. Encourage honest, frank, unfiltered responses.
- Who has the authority to order an evacuation?
- Consider Sheltering in Place, i.e. Vertical Evacuation, etc.
- Share the big decision making moments.

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DO YOU HAVE A WRITTEN PLAN?

- If not, start one!
- If you have a plan, have you trained?
- Does everyone who will be involved to assist have a copy of your plan, have they trained? Waiting till a hurricane is in the Gulf of Mexico is **NO TIME** to review, train or start drafting a plan.

ONCE THE DECISION IS MADE

- Manage through it with the end in site, document everything
- First things first
- Delegate
- Control the chaos
- Do not allow yourself or your staff to become overwhelmed
- Keep your boss informed
- Share decision making
- Keep everyone in the loop up to date
- When changes are made, and they will be made, follow-up
- If it's not in writing, have a witness to verify
- Long term vs. short term?

DON'T FORGET

- Visitors (Attorneys, Family, Ministers, LEOs, Volunteers, etc.)
- Vendors (medical, food service, vending machine, etc.)
- Contract Workers
- County maintenance
- County electronics
- Delivery personnel (FED EX, UPS, US Mail, Lab Couriers)
- Emergency personnel lost in the chaos
- Family members or inmate friends showing up after the order to evacuation is given. Should inmate phone service be shut down?
- News media
- Good Samaritans and Not So Good Samaritans

WHEN DRAFTING YOUR PLAN, REMEMBER

- Your inmates may be scattered in several directions.
- Transportation needs, make all prearrangements
- Inmate medical services must continue, especially pill call
- Inmate food service must continue
- Mental health services
- Employees and inmates need to hydrate
- Inmates will need restrooms, sleeping arrangements
- Employees will need breaks, relieving and meals
- Inmate property
- Normal daily supplies, t-paper, blankets, lighting, feminine products, daily hygiene, etc.

FAIL TO PLAN VS. PLAN TO FAIL

- How will you account for everyone? Do you always know **EVERYONE** who is in your jail at all times?
- Are there multiple muster points for different events?
- Table top exercises, discuss contingencies, ask **WHAT IF?**
- Medical Landing Zones, Emergency entrance/exit for buses
- Never compromise **SECURITY**

LESSONS LEARNED

- Take full advantage of pre-incident planning.
- Some decisions will have to be made and sometimes operational plans need to be changed post-incident.
- Mass Notification is always a challenge.
- Reliable Interoperable Communications is always a challenge.
- Recommended Inmate to Officer ratio 15:2.
- If you think you need four buses, ask for six, if you think you will need a generator, ask for two, if you need six State Troopers, ask for eight. If you think you need two days of water and supplies, ask for five, etc.
- Ask yourself, when I am off site, do I have everything I need to conduct business as usual?