



## Pelican Bay State Prison

Located on 275 acres in the northwest corner of California, Pelican Bay State Prison is designed to safely house many of California's most serious criminal offenders. The prison opened in December 1989 to accommodate a need for a growing population of maximum-security inmates. More than 2,700 male inmates live in Pelican Bay, a high-security prison 13 miles south of the California-Oregon border; 45 percent are serving life or life without parole.

Pelican Bay is one of eight California state prisons accredited by the American Correctional Association, the recognized expert in establishing measurable standards in prison management and the oldest, most respected and largest international correctional association in the world.

Pelican Bay houses maximum-security inmates in a general population setting, has a 400-bed minimum support facility which houses low custody inmates outside the secure perimeter, and a Firehouse with eight fulltime inmate firefighters. Pelican Bay also operates a Psychiatric Services Unit, a 127-bed unit designed and staffed to treat mentally ill inmates with SHU terms. Pelican Bay's Enhanced Outpatient Program is an 80-bed unit that houses inmates receiving mental health treatment in a general population setting.

### ***The SHU***

Pelican Bay houses approximately 1,170 inmates in the SHU. The Pelican Bay SHU is divided into Facility C and Facility D.

Facility C is comprised of 12 housing units that contain 48 cells each. Each housing unit is divided into six pods. Each pod has two tiers with four cells on each tier. Facility C specializes in transitioning inmates out of gangs and into general population prisons.

Facility D is comprised of 10 housing units that contain 48 cells each. Each housing unit is divided into six pods; each pod has two tiers with four cells on each tier. Facility D specializes in the observation and documentation of some of the most active security threat groups in the nation.

Prison gangs have been recognized as a leading contributor to criminal activity both within prisons and in our communities. Tactics used in the past did little to slow down the steady growth of prison gang influence and relied on a "watch and document" philosophy. Prison gang members continued to operate their criminal enterprises with relative ease.

In 2006, a more proactive approach was initiated. Rather than simply monitoring gang activity, Pelican Bay took steps to stop gang activity and hold offenders responsible and accountable for their criminal behavior. The most influential gang members and associates were housed in a section of Facility D known as the "short corridor." By isolating these inmates from the remaining population, scrutinizing their communications and applying sanctions when necessary, Pelican Bay greatly impeded their ability to direct criminal activity. This approach also caused more inmates to drop out of their gang. Inmates who dropped out said that housing inmates in the short corridor significantly impacted gang communications and led to their decision to renounce their gang affiliation. The result was reduced gang activity and increased the identification of previously undetected crimes including drug trafficking, sex crimes, parole violations, extortion and money laundering.