



## **SAN QUENTIN TRIAGE AND TREATMENT AREA (TTA)**

### **Fact Sheet**

**June 2007**

### **What is the TTA?**

The TTA acts as the emergency room for San Quentin's approximately 5,200 inmates. Patients in need of life-saving measures, due to heart attacks, trauma injuries, mental health crisis and other "man down" emergencies are brought to the TTA, where they are assessed, treated and stabilized. Some may require ambulance transport to the nearest hospital. The TTA also serves patients in need of urgent medical attention, and provides 24-hour coverage when the prison's housing block clinics are closed. The TTA saw 823 patients in March, 749 in April and 920 in May.

The new TTA is located in the first floor of the institution's Neumiller Building, in an area previously used by incoming Reception Center inmates waiting for health care examinations, and by a physical therapist who delivered care in a portion of the room. Reception Center screenings now take place in Receiving and Release, and the physical therapy room has been relocated across the hall.

The new TTA replaces a former version that was physically deteriorating and dangerously inadequate in terms of patient care space, staff work space, equipment, supplies and cleanliness. For example, the new TTA houses four patient care stations – double the amount in the previous TTA -- as well as a secure holding area within the room for inmates waiting to be seen or in need of observation. The new TTA also includes staff work areas and up to date medical equipment and supplies – which did not exist in the old TTA.

### **New TTA:**

**Cost:** \$1.6 million includes programming, design, construction, management, inspection and guarding costs

**Timeframe:** Eight months from conception to opening  
Physical construction: February – June 2007



*Chart comparing old and new TTA*

<b>Description</b>	<b>Old TTA</b>	<b>New TTA</b>
Year Opened	1930	2007
Number of Patient Care Stations	2	4
Square Footage	Less than 400	Approx. 1,600
Staff Work Areas	None	Adequate work, charting and meeting space for clinical staff and clerical support
Supply Space	None	Secure supply closet
Equipment	Inadequate	Each patient bay equipped with life-saving equipment such as heart monitors, blood pressure equipment, etc.
Hours of Operation	24/7	24/7
X-Ray, Lab, Pharmacy Support	Open until 3pm	Open until 8pm
Staffing	Day shift: 1 Nurse Practitioner, 2 RNs, 1 LVN, 1 clerical, with in-person MD consult available. Evening: 2 RNs, 1 LVN, 1 clerical for part of the shift, with phone MD consult available. Night: RNs only, with on-call MD consult available.	No change
Location	Neumiller Building, furthest room from emergency exit, several doors down from the pharmacy, across the hall from a noisy 40-man holding cell and officer transfer area.	Neumiller Building, relocated closer to emergency exit, adjoining pharmacy with pass-through window for medications, distance away from holding cell significantly reduces noise, staff able to listen to vital signs without interruption.