



Monmouth County Sheriff's Office First in New Jersey to Implement X-Ray Screening

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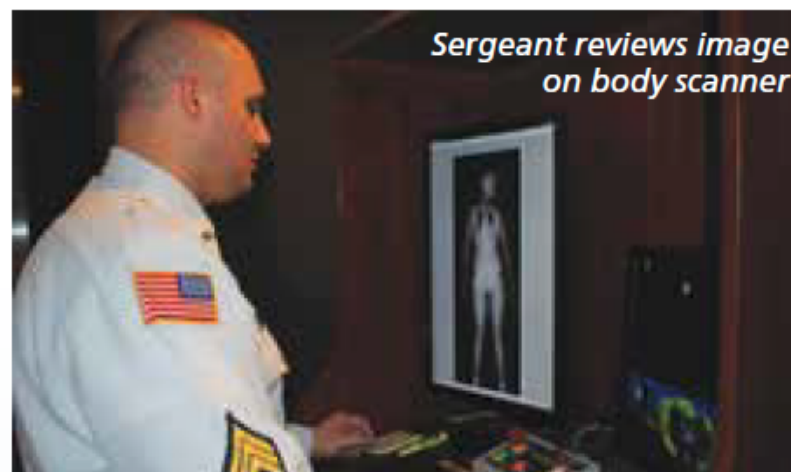
On November 7, 2016, a new era in contraband searches at correctional institutions in New Jersey began. The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office 1328 bed direct supervision correctional institution implemented the use of a Smiths Detection B-Scan 16HR-LD250 body scanner at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. This date culminated a five-year odyssey that started in 2012 when Warden Brian Elwood noted a distinct increase in contraband entering the jail via concealment in body cavity areas.

Traditional methods of close observation, search, strip search, and showers were failing to reveal contraband hidden deep within body cavities.

Contraband includes drugs, weapons, cell phones, smoking materials, and materials that can be made into a weapon. Contraband creates numerous problems for both inmates and custodial staff. Drugs that are successfully smuggled into the jail environment are often used as currency among inmates, and are used to exchange for commissary or favors. Gangs use drugs as an incentive to recruit new gang members within the correctional environment. As a result, gang violence increases within the institution, increasing the possibilities of injuries to both inmates and correctional staff. In 2013, two inmates successfully smuggled drugs into the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. Both inmates died two weeks apart, from drug overdose, resulting in lawsuits against Monmouth County.

Although most weapons that may have been concealed from arresting or transporting officers are detected early, during inmate intake at the jail, undetected weapons successfully concealed within a body cavity can result in serious injury to inmates or corrections staff. Any contraband that enters an inmate housing unit has the potential to cause an incident that may lead to disruption, injury, or death.

In 2013, Warden Barry Nadrowski challenged the corrections staff to identify a means to combat body cavity smuggling of contraband into the jail. Captain Rene



Roberts identified that full body scanners, similar to scanners used at airports, could be used in a correctional setting to accomplish this task.

With the approval and support of Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden, a meeting was scheduled with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to explore the use of X-Ray full body scanners for detecting contraband in a jail environment. The DEP's Commission on Radiation Protection indicated that an X-Ray scanner could be operated within the council's recommended exposure limits for inmate screening. The Attorney General's Office, who also attended this meeting, indicated that there were two state laws that restricted the use of X-Ray scanners. The laws were:

N.J.S.A 26: D-27 X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST LICENSES

a) "except as hereinafter provided, no person other than a licensed practitioner or holder of a license as provided in this act shall use X-Rays on a human being."

N.J.A.C. 7:28-2.6 INTENTIONAL HUMAN RADIATION

a) Only persons licensed or otherwise permitted by law shall arrange for irradiation, application or administration of radiation to a human being or any part thereof, for the purpose of medical diagnosis or treatment.

These laws had to be amended to proceed to use full body X-Ray scanners for inmate screening.

In 2015, Warden Barry Nadrowski enlisted the support of the N.J. Warden's Association in support of having these two laws amended by the state legislators



to permit the use of full body X-Ray screening as part of inmate processing in New Jersey. Along with the Warden's Association, Sheriff Shaun Golden, and the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders worked diligently to secure legislative support in favor of the legislative changes necessary to permit full body X-Ray screening for inmate processing. The legislature passed the required legislation, and it was signed into law by Governor Chris Christie in January 2016.

With those hurdles surmounted, the next challenge was the selection of the scanning device which would provide good readable images with minimum radiation. The device selected was the Smiths Detection B-SCAN 16HR-LD 250. This unit was selected for its ability to:

- 1) Detect objects concealed internally or externally on the body
- 2) Contraband and threat detection, including weapons, explosives, detonators, narcotics, electronic devices, diamonds, precious stones, metals, and mobile cell phones (yes, mobile cell phones can be, and have been, concealed in body cavities.)
- 3) Scan time less than seven seconds
- 4) Complete head to toe inspection in one short inspection cycle
- 5) State of the art image processing with zoom functions
- 6) Very low radiation dose rate (0.25 micro sieverts)

The American National Standards Institute measurements for radiation exposure rates on X-Ray equipment indicated the following allowed exposures per person on the equipment for the B-SCAN 16HR-LD 250:

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- 1,000 scans a year
 - 19 scans a week
 - 2 scans a day

The device is serviced twice a year, and inspected by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection annually. The cost of the unit is approximately \$168,000, an investment in security for inmates and correctional staff, as well as a deterrent to law suits that occur when drugs are successfully smuggled into the jail and an inmate causes harm to him/herself by ingesting them.

Policies and procedures were developed, implemented, and enforced for the use of the X-Ray body scanner to ensure absolute safety for officers and inmates. Officers trained to operate the equipment (approximately 50 officers have been trained to operate the B-SCAN) wear Dosimetry badges to monitor radiation exposure and the badges are checked quarterly.

The Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, Corrections Division, is the first correctional institution in New Jersey to begin full body X-Ray scanning. Contraband items detected since the screening began include numerous incidents of drugs (30 decks in one incident), a knife that was missed in a pat down search by the arresting agency, and cell phones.

"The safety and security of our correctional staff and inmates are a priority in Monmouth County," said Sheriff Shaun Golden. "The investment in this full body scanning equipment, and the efforts of the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Warden's Association of New Jersey, and the New Jersey State Legislature, working in concert to make full body scanning for incarcerated individuals in New Jersey possible, will help ensure the utmost safety of those whom are sentenced to incarceration in the facility, as well as the dedicated corrections staff who work there."