

Memorandum



Date: August 22, 2012

To: Honorable Sally A. Heyman
Commissioner

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Identification of Inmates as Veterans

Pursuant to your directive during the May 8, 2012 Public Safety and Health Administration Committee meeting, below please find additional information regarding military information collected at the time of the inmate booking process.

The Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department recognizes the importance of identifying individuals who have veteran status in order to appropriately process and provide necessary services. The Department has been involved in the Automated Arrest Form project, funded through a grant and coordinated through the Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police, which is expected to be fully implemented in January 2013. The Department has requested that the veteran status of arrestees be included in the on-line arrest application as completed by the arresting law enforcement officer. This would populate daily reports and allow for the information to be provided to the necessary stakeholders so services may be provided more expeditiously to veterans in custody.

In addition to the Automated Arrest Form project, the Department captures the identification of veteran status during its classification process. The classification assessment process begins immediately after first appearance, usually within 48 hours after arrest, when it is determined an inmate has not affected release from custody. The Department utilizes the Objective Jail Classification System, a nationally recognized classification system utilizing well-defined legal factors and personal characteristics such as severity of current offense, prior felony convictions, escape history, age and institutional behavior history, to determine an inmate's individual security, custodial and program needs. As such, the classification assessment process requires that an extensive interview be conducted with the inmate. It is at this time that classification officers ask inmates about their veteran status and the branch of military service. This information will then populate reports that will be forwarded to the Program Services Unit and the Department of Veteran Affairs so they may provide the necessary program and referral services. In the event an inmate is hesitant to disclose their veteran status during the classification process, the veteran status is requested again during the re-entry screening process.

The Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department remains committed to working with criminal justice partners, social service providers and the Department of Veteran Affairs to improve incarcerated veterans' successful return to the community. Additionally, the Department is supporting the efforts of the State Attorney's Office, which is working with the Eleventh Judicial Courts, to determine the feasibility of establishing a veteran's court. Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact Timothy P. Ryan, Director, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department, at telephone number (786) 263-6010.

c: Genaro "Chip" Iglesias, Chief of Staff/Deputy Mayor
Timothy P. Ryan, Director, Miami-Dade Corrections and Rehabilitation Department