

# CorrectionalNEWS

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# 2020 DETENTION EQUIPMENT CONTRACTORS REPORT

This report is published by Correctional News, the information source for the correctional industry. Address correspondence to: [cn@emlenmedia.com](mailto:cn@emlenmedia.com) • 1241 Andersen Drive, Suite N, San Rafael, CA 94901 • Phone: 415-460-6185 • Fax: 415-460-6288

The below listing is a mere sampling of the numerous Detention Equipment Contractors (DECs) found around the U.S. and includes each company's location, website, area of coverage and a brief insight on its background. If there are areas of the DEC industry you'd like to see covered in the future, or you have related news of your own to share, please contact Managing Editor Zach Chouteau (zach@emlenmedia) to share your thoughts.

Company	City, State	Website	Geographic Area Covered	Fast Fact
Anchortex Corporation	West Berlin, N.J.	www.anchortex.com	U.S.	Longtime provider of security gear, apparel and much more
C.A. Owens & Associates	Freeport, Fla.	www.caowensinc.com	U.S.	Providing services that include design, supply and maintenance
CML Security	Erie, Colo.	www.cmlsecurity.us	U.S./International	A focus on security electronics and detention equipment
Cornerstone Detention Group	Madison, Ala.	www.cornerstonedetention.com	North America	An industry leader in detention products and services
Florida Detention Systems Inc.	Melrose, Fla.	www.floridadetention.com	Eastern Half of the U.S.	Products and services include fences, gates, security
Jailcraft Inc.	Owings Mills, Md.	www.jailcraftinc.com	Mid-Atlantic	Showcasing locks, sliding doors, conrols and more
Jails Correctional Products Inc.	Minster, Ohio	www.fabcor.com	Continental U.S.	Maker of detention products that include beds, doors, mortises
Kenco Wire & Iron Products	Keansburg, N.J.	www.kencowire.com	U.S.	Expertise includes window guards, jail and prison equipment
Maximum Security Products Corp.	Waterford, N.Y.	www.maximumsecuritycorp.com	U.S./International	Doors and heavy duty hinges to electronic controls
Montgomery Technology Systems LLC	Greenville, Ala.	www.montgomerytechsystems.com	U.S.	Security electronics and detention control systems
Noah Detention Construction	Niceville, Fla.	www.noahdetention.com	Southeast & Midwestern U.S.	Design/manage/procure detention equipment/security electronics
Pauly Jail	Noblesville, Ind.	www.paulyjail.com	U.S. Midwest/South	Nation's oldest correctional facilities equipment contractor
R&S Corporation	Baton Rouge, La.	www.randscorp.com	U.S./South	Provider of correctional products, maintenance and more
Secure Control Systems	San Antonio, Texas	www.securecontrolsystems.com	South and Southwest	Detention hardware, security electronics and other offerings
Securtec Inc.	Baton Rouge, La.	www.securtecinc.com	U.S./South	Provider and installer of furnishings, security, hardware and more
Southern Folger	San Antonio, Texas	www.southernfolger.com	U.S./International	Security electronics, furnishings and other products/services
Stronghold Industries Inc.	Racine, Wis.	www.strongholdind.com	Midwest	Specialziing in DEC projects as well as curtain wall/glass work
Sweeper Metal Fabricators Corp.	Drumright, Okla.	www.sweepermetal.com	U.S./International	Maker and installer of detention doors, cells, furniture, etc.
Taylor, Cotton and Ridley Inc.	Gainesville, Fla.	www.taylorcottonridley.com	U.S.	Offerings include installation of steel doors, frames, wood doors
Unique Security Inc.	Montgomery, Ala.	www.uniquesecurityinc.com	Eastern Half of the U.S./International	Security upgrades, preventive maintenance, integration systems
United Prison Equipment	Green Lane, Pa.	www.unitedprison.com	U.S.	A full line of detention furniture and accessories
Universal Security Products Inc.	San Ramon, Calif.	www.universalsecurity.com	U.S./International	Products/services include metal roofing and laminated flooring
US Security Systems Inc.	Montgomery, Ala.	www.ussecuritysystems.com	North America	Security systems specialist covering U.S., Canada and Mexico
Valley Security Company	Elgin, Ill.	www.valleysecurityco.com	Midwest	High-security hardware, electronics, materials and furnishings
W. Lewis Frame n Door Inc.	Willow Grove, Pa.	www.lewisdoor.com	U.S.	Focus includes prison doors, hardware, detention locks

*Emlen Media does not warrant or make any representations regarding the companies included in this guide in terms of their quality, timeliness, reliability or otherwise.*



The Oldham County Detention Center in Kentucky is just one of many facilities that have benefited from U.S. Security Systems' expertise and services over the years.

# Insights and Observations

## Interview with a DEC Expert

By CN Staff

Tim Clifford, president of U.S. Security Systems, Inc., recently took some time out of his busy slate to share some insights and opinions with Correctional News on current trends within the DEC industry.

**Q:** *What are some of the top trends today in detention equipment within your company's area of focus?*

One of the trends we are seeing is an increase in renovation work. Several of our largest projects over the past several years and leading into next year are renovations at the state and local level. Much of the work we are seeing is related to "hardening" projects. Facility owners are looking for ways to repurpose lower security facilities to a higher level of security. There has been a need to upgrade control systems from older systems to more modern touch screens in conjunction with these 'hardening' projects. Also, we have seen an uptick in federal work, both new construction and renovation. The combination of renovation and federal work has helped to offset a slight downturn in new construction projects at the state and local level.

**Q:** *How has the ongoing pandemic influenced this section of the corrections industry and your firm?*

The biggest impact we have seen from COVID-19 are increased material lead times and delays to job schedules due to

facility shutdowns. Primarily, the facility shutdowns have been isolated to renovation of existing facilities. These delays have caused a backlog in installation as facilities have just started to re-open to contractors. Unfortunately, you cannot make up for lost time, so we have had to adapt to keep jobs on schedule.

The combination of renovation and federal work has helped to offset a slight downturn in new construction projects at the state and local level.

New construction projects proceeded better in terms of delays related to COVID-19, other than extended lead times related to materials. We have also seen increases in delays of shipments from our suppliers due the pandemic, primarily from temporary shutdowns at manufacturing facilities and COVID-19 related workforce issues.

**Q:** *Have you worked on any big projects recently or released any new equipment of note?*

We recently completed several large multi-year renovation projects with different state Departments of Corrections. We currently have several federal courthouse projects centered around new construction. While new construction has been limited, we have been fortunate to secure several new construction projects at the county level in several states.

**Q:** *How do you think the detention equipment market has evolved over the past decade or so?*

There have been some 'lean' years in the past decade. Primarily 2014 and 2015. The recovery centered around

renovation work, which remains a large part of today's market. One of the biggest changes has been the consolidation of manufacturers. This has created in some instances, fewer available vendors and longer lead times.

**Q:** *What do you think the near future holds for the state of detention equipment contracting?*

Business has been on the increase over the past few years and currently does not show signs of letting up. As with all industries there is some uncertainty that comes with an election year and what kind of impact the results of the election will have on our business. There is a definite need for expertise in our field of work. Using an experienced detention equipment contractor helps to ensure that the owner gets the right product, installed properly, and that the product will serve its intended purpose. Having that expertise and knowledge helps to lower upfront as well as long term operating costs for the owner. Continued collaboration with owners, architects, and general contractors helps to highlight the value that DEC's bring to the table.

## detention equipment trends

# Today's Detention Equipment Emphasizes Health and Safety

By Lisa Kopochinski

Over the past decade, the corrections industry has evolved in many areas. Some of the biggest trends include a greater focus on health and safety, plus a push towards more-normative environments.

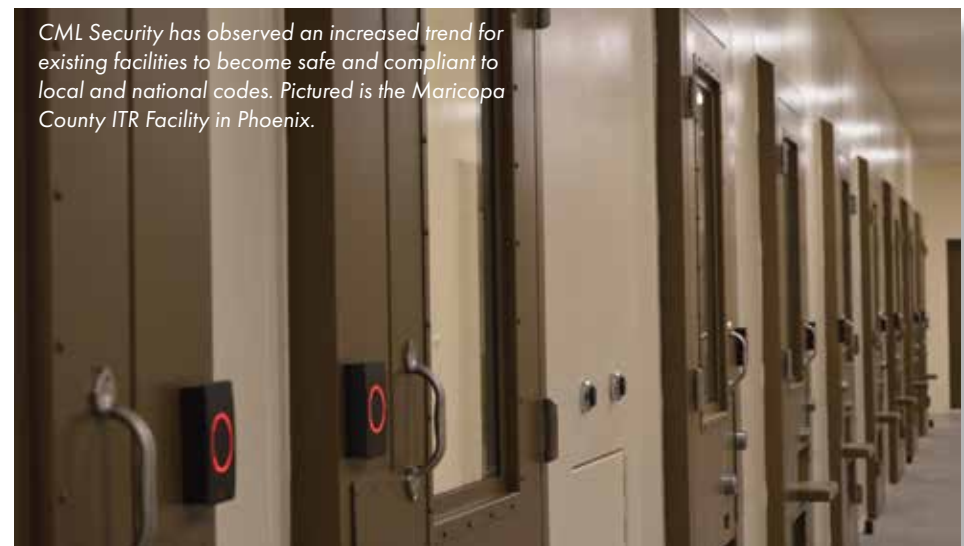
Architects, contractors, and owners alike are strategically designing facilities to be more home-like, which has proven to be more conducive to rehabilitation and having a direct impact reducing recidivism. And this trend has had a ripple effect in many ways on the waves within the detention equipment landscape.

"For example, facilities are using more plastic furniture versus steel, introducing an array of different colors that can be used to impact moods," said Lucas Riphagen, co-owner of TriActive USA Fitness Equipment and RIPCO & Associates, a manufacturers rep group

that provides fitness equipment and other detention products to correctional facilities.

"What we are seeing—that

complements a normative environment—is the installation of outdoor (or indoor), tamper-resistant exercise equipment. Feelings of stress, depression, anger, and



*CML Security has observed an increased trend for existing facilities to become safe and compliant to local and national codes. Pictured is the Maricopa County ITR Facility in Phoenix.*

Photo Credit: CML Security

frustration are all things that come with being incarcerated. Exercise equipment gives inmates an outlet to suppress these feelings and exert their energy on something that is positively contributing to their overall well-being.”

Janie Jennings is an account manager at Cortech USA, a company specializing in the design and manufacturing of correctional and behavioral health furnishings.

She said the undeniable trend Cortech has seen in detention equipment has been the shift from steel furnishings to molded furnishings.

“This transition has been popular in dayrooms and common areas for some time now, but we are finally seeing a significant trend take place in the furnishings of individual cells as well, and

compounds to reduce the growth and spread of bacteria.”

Brett Noecker, director of preconstruction at CML Security, LLC, a security electronics integrator, detention equipment installer, and service and preventative maintenance provider, has observed an increased trend for existing occupied facilities to become safer and compliant to current local and national codes.

“More notable of late has been the increased emphasis on officer safety and the control systems that are being updated in existing facilities. Retrofit applications to bring control systems the ability to electromechanically release from control stations. Facilities have sought out solutions, and the industry has responded with versions of retrofit kits to convert

CEO Tracey Zachrich.

While the food service operations in the corrections environment really has the same basic needs as any foods service operation, she said there are a few unique needs, and the priorities are different.

“Here is how I would rank them and why,” she elaborated. “Safety: the equipment must be designed so that an inmate cannot easily break something off and make a weapon out of it. It also must eliminate little hides for contraband. Durability: maintenance departments/budgets are a fraction of what they once were. Plus, this environment is especially abusive due to the fact that the primary operators are inmates with no incentive to be careful about the equipment. And, Simplicity: due to the type of equipment operators and the very high turnover rate, the equipment needs to be extremely simple to operate.”

## COVID's Impact

If one thing is certain during this worldwide pandemic, COVID-19 has forced manufacturers to think outside the box.

“This is the new normal and companies are planning for that,” said Riphagen. “I suspect you will see a lot of manufacturers integrate antimicrobial properties into their products. Inmates are confined to small spaces where they are sharing a lot of the same surfaces, so the idea that you can incorporate an anti-microbial property into the manufacturing processes in order to prevent the spread of COVID, is enticing to facility designers and should be a top priority for manufacturers.”

Jennings agreed and added, “One positive impact COVID-19 has had on the design of correctional equipment is the engineering of antimicrobials into molded furnishings. This is a significant advancement that will help to reduce the growth of microorganisms on the surface, contributing to safer environments between regular cleaning and sanitizing.”

Noecker said an increased focus on health and well-being into new design is also expected.

“Look for the corrections sector to



Photo Credit: Mikki Piper, Mule Creek Prison

there are many reasons for this.”

For example, in terms of cost, molded furnishings are lighter and less expensive to ship and install.

“Once installed, they are virtually maintenance-free and will not rust, dent or chip away,” she said. “Colors are customizable, which promotes a rehabilitative environment and eliminates the need for repainting. And, thanks to modern technology, molded furnishings can be engineered to be safer and stronger than steel. Their rounded edges and corners make them ligature resistant, and they can be infused with antimicrobial

existing manually operated doors to control operated doors.”

JonesZylon specializes in a variety of products for the corrections industry, including a complete, integrated system designed for food service operations. This includes everything from dinnerware, to all types of meal trays and all types of carts to deliver them.

“I would say the overarching trend in detention equipment—as it relates to food service—is that we have gone from largely using commercially available equipment to equipment that is specifically designed for the corrections environment,” explained

Photo Credit: JonesZylon



*The overarching food service trend JonesZylon has noted is a move from largely using commercially available equipment to equipment specifically designed for the corrections environment.*

seek out ways to provide inmate and officer safety, including ways of limiting contact to surfaces. Furnishings will focus on improved anti-microbial surfaces and coatings allowing the ability to clean more frequently. Also, contact visitations and outside visitors may be reduced so you will see the use of non-contact areas increase and subsequent video visitation systems.”

From a meal delivery standpoint, Zachrich said at the outbreak of the pandemic, there was an urgent need to deliver meals to housing units rather than to have inmates congregate in cafeterias.

“Where an institution used meal delivery carts to bring meals to the lockdown unit, now it is trying to figure out a way to deliver all meals to inmates in the housing units. The immediate solution was usually to use any type of cart they could get their hands on the deliver Styrofoam clamshells. Now, many institutions are working on a more permanent solution for long term meal delivery to the housing units.”

She said the more responsive equipment manufacturers are developing

simple and compact meal delivery systems to deliver a large number of meals at one time with an aim to minimize the investment; provide the system in weeks not months; keep the food hot; and secure the meals from theft/contamination.

## What's Next?

As for what the near future—three to five years—holds for detention equipment technology, Zachrich thinks there will be a trend where many institutions ultimately shutter cafeterias and deliver all meals to the housing units.

“That is how 99 percent of jails do it now and the state and federal facilities seem to be going that way. The right equipment technology will be integrated with meal trays and presented as a packaged system to help facilitate that. Also, equipment designed for corrections will continue to improve on how it hits on the corrections priorities—safety, durability and simplicity.”

Noecker said there will be a continued need to improve aging existing facilities with retrofit applications.

“The number of facilities that have deferred maintenance has increased exponentially and current systems have exceeded end of life limits. There is a growing list of outdated locking and device systems [and] many of these devices are becoming safety concerns. Look for existing facilities to focus on improving living conditions and comfort, interior furnishings and furniture will press for normative and softer designs.”

Regarding new construction, Noecker added that the industry may slowly introduce new technologies to compliment older known standards.

“While the lock and hardware standards will remain, look for new ways of control and access throughout facilities. Normative designs with focus on mental health will be commonplace on future designs. The typical living cell or dorm will introduce more features, including increased exterior lighting, accessories, privacy enhancements and anti-ligature

safeguards. The market will continue to focus on modularization of cells to combat budget and schedule challenges. We may see increased dorm style living units, to meet the demands for beds in larger jurisdictions.”

Riphagen said as the cost to build continues to increase, this will make it even more difficult to work within budgets.

“Perhaps you will start to see different construction approaches, such as modular cells to save construction time which, in turn, will reduce costs. You will also continue to see the use of colorful plastics versus steel, creating a more home-like environment.”

He said architects and owners may still be slightly hesitant to fully embrace the use of plastics over steel due to concerns over durability.

“It’s been proven that plastic is just as durable and much safer; requires less maintenance; and is easier to install than steel. This could also have an effect on construction costs. The less timely and difficult it is to install detention equipment, the quicker construction will move. In addition, I think you will continue to see the integration of tamper-resistance exercise equipment in facilities over the next three to five years as it further contributes to a more humane environment. With the presence of COVID, and the medical costs associated with incarceration, I think it’s important that we continue to instill health and wellness in our correctional facilities.

Jennings foresees a paradigm shift in facility owners’ dispositions towards the use of brighter interior colors that facilitate a more normative environment.

“These environments will promote hope, rehabilitation, and support for reentry back into society. With encouragement from government officials and taxpaying citizens, architects in the corrections field will embrace this transformation and design facilities that are functionally same—yet aesthetically different.”

# DECs Forge Ahead with New Products and Approaches

By Zach Chouteau

Even in an industry that has grappled with an uncertain 2020, the Detention Equipment Contractor (DEC) arena and its numerous firms find ways to grow and evolve. Here's a quick take on some recent news and insights from Detention Equipment Groups around the U.S. If you're a DEC with news of your own to share with the industry, please touch base with us at CN@emlenmedia.com.

## Cortech USA Touts Durability in New Equipment

At Cortech USA, the well-established firm shared info confirming the durability and integrity of its Endurance Wall Bunk and also the recent release of a sturdy new locker.

The company's top priority has always been to provide quality products that contribute to a safe and humane environment, and recent life-cycle tests performed on the Endurance Wall Bunk prove that its rotationally molded, polyethylene structure is just as strong, if not stronger, than its duller metal and steel counterparts.

With pilot holes already engineered into the mold of the wall bunk itself, the installation process is simple and straightforward, requiring just a drill and rubber mallet accompanied by some hardware to complete. Cortech's suggested procedure was used to mount the bunk onto a wall to begin preparations for the life cycle testing. A heavy-duty leather bag was filled to 200 lbs. and positioned at the midspan of the outer edge, aka the "heart" of the bed, where the most pressure is typically expected. The weight was repeatedly applied nearly 13,000 times before increasing the load to 250 lbs. Testing continued at the heavier weight until a total of 70,000 cycles were conducted. The results were highly impressive and concluded that no visible damage had occurred during the repetitive cycles.



Cortech's wall bunk passed a recent integrity test with flying colors.



The Endurance Locker is flame-retardant and free of any metal hinges.

The bunks are stain-resistant, easy to clean, and infused with an antimicrobial compound to reduce the growth and spread of bacteria on the surface. Custom colors are available and recommended for promoting normative environments focused on rehabilitation.

Cortech USA® also recently introduced its newest addition to the Endurance line of furniture: the Endurance Locker. Combining pleasing aesthetics with unparalleled durability, the locker offers a safe and secure storage option for personal property.

Built to last using the most advanced rotational molding technology, the locker is constructed of flame-retardant polyethylene and is completely free of metal hinges, making it an extremely safe option for intensive use environments. It can stand alone in individual dorm rooms or be neighbored together in general population areas. Each locker is equipped with a predetermined combination flush-mount lock and hasp system that can be overridden by a master key, ensuring protection for both residents and personnel. When free-standing, the door rotates 270 degrees and conveniently nestles into the side of the mold. The interior readily provides 7.75 feet of total storage space, with two non-removable shelves and an anti-ligature shelf for hanging clothes.

Colors can be thoughtfully chosen based on need or preference while the locking system provides a sense of freedom knowing that personal belongings are secure. It is virtually maintenance-free and can be cleaned using a disinfectant or soap and water.

## Hope's Windows Scores Hurricane Certification for New Pivot Doors

Hope's Windows, Inc., a leading manufacturer of custom-designed, solid hot-rolled steel and solid bronze window

and door systems, announces that its Jamestown175™ Series hurricane pivot doors have passed stringent wind tests and are certified for use within hurricane and impact zones. The doors adhere to Miami-Dade County, Florida Building Code (FBC) and High Velocity Hurricane Zone (HVHZ) standards.

The Jamestown175™ Series include massive 6' wide by 11' tall single panel doors; time-tested solid, hot-rolled steel, ultra-thin sightlines, and Hope's exclusive Power of 5 Finishing System. The doors are tested for TAS-201 (large missile impact), TAS-202 (structural), TAS-203 (cyclic load), air infiltration, water, and design pressure of +/- 60.0 PSF.

"At Hope's, we do not take anything for granted. We know our clients have very high expectations of our products and we take this very seriously. The Jamestown175™ Series pivot doors are the perfect example of this tenet," said Southeast Regional Sales Manager Adam Irgang. "These doors have passed the most stringent tests in the country, and we're proud to offer a one-of-a-kind product that represents our brand and reputation."

#### U.S. Security Checks In

U.S. Security has had several changes over the past two years. Joseph Ames and Tim Clifford joined the company in early 2019. Ron Clifford announced his retirement in late 2019, although he is still active with the company in a supporting role. The firm also relocated its offices from Dadeville, Ala., to Opelika, Ala., in the spring of 2020 as well as hiring a new controller, Brittany Eiland. Its website ([www.ussecuritysystems.com](http://www.ussecuritysystems.com)) was also updated not long ago.

#### TriActive USA Update

TriActive USA Fitness Equipment was founded in 2018 by Lucas & Gregg Riphagen, a father-son duo who have not had statewide been working alongside each other building a manufacturer rep firm called RIPCO & Associates, which was founded in 2014 covering the Western part of the United States. Gregg had 15+ years of experience working with a few of the industry's elite manufacturers where he was exposed to the independent rep business and how they operated. He knew this was something he wanted to pursue and shortly after the launch of RIPCO & Associates in 2014, TriActive America, who manufactured outdoor fitness equipment for the correctional market, reached out looking to hire us to sell their products. After about 5 years of success with the TriActive America line, the owner called and said, "We're closing our doors and heading for retirement."



Photo Credit (all): Cortech USA

Cell image of Cortech USA products illustrates the shift to normative environments with detention equipment.

"As a rep, when you lose a line, you lose a portion of income, so we had a decision to make," Lucas Riphagen told CN. "Either we pursue another manufacturer who aligns with our mission or we make TriActive America an offer to buy their business and get into manufacturing, which is what we decided to do."

He added that the evolution of TriActive USA over the past 2.5 years has been great.

"Since our launch in 2018, we have worked with nearly 100 correctional facilities across the country. We launched with 18 products and have since grown the line to about 22 products," Riphagen explained. "We made some major design changes to enhance the quality and reliability of our equipment and have brought all manufacturing into the United States, while still remaining very price competitive, which has been great for us and our customers. We launched the business out of a friend's 900-square-foot warehouse back in 2018 and on January 1st, 2020 we moved into a 4,000-square-foot warehouse and office space. In addition, we hired our first full-time employee who happens to be my sister (Gregg's daughter), solidifying us as a true family-owned and operated business."

As TriActive USA continues to grow, he added, the company is always looking to expand its sales efforts through additional reps and dealers throughout the U.S.