

December 3, 2009

Cherie Sales-Stierwalt, Director
Bravo Company
Thunderbird Youth Academy
824 Park St. Bldg. 312
Pryor, Oklahoma 74361

RE: Thunderbird Youth Academy, Bravo Company
Second Biannual Unannounced Visit, 2009
OJSO COM-5988-09

Dear Ms. Stierwalt:

The Office of Juvenile System Oversight (OJSO) conducted an unannounced oversight and complaint investigation visit at the Thunderbird Youth Academy (TYA), Bravo Company, also known as the Thunderbird Regimented Training Program, on November 5 and 6, 2009. The Bravo Company operated through a contract between the Oklahoma Military Department (OMD) and the Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA) to provide residential placements and treatment for OJA-custody male juveniles. The facility was licensed for 96 residents by the division of Oklahoma Child Care Services (OCCS) of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). On the day of the visit, the census was 26. During the oversight visit, the OJSO spoke with the facility director, the OJA liaison, one platoon sergeant, and four cadets; and the OJSO reviewed documents and files.

The OJSO reviewed a letter from the Executive Director of the OJA, dated October 5, 2009. The OJSO noted that the letter indicated that the Office of Juvenile Affairs would be cancelling the interagency agreement effective December 31, 2009, due to recent budget shortfalls.

The OJSO did not note any concerns during the oversight visit or regarding the complaint investigation.

During the exit conference, the OJSO discussed the OJA intent to cancel the interagency agreement. The facility director reported that November 12, 2009, would be the graduation date for the current cycle of cadets, and that November

13, 2009, would be the final date of employment for the current staff at the Bravo Company.

The OJSO expressed its appreciation for the services that the Thunderbird Youth Academy, Bravo Company, had provided to the OJA-custody youth over the years.

No response to this correspondence is necessary and we will wait thirty days before publishing this correspondence on the web page. This correspondence has been sent to all appropriate state agencies.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or comments concerning this correspondence, please call me at 405-606-4900.

Sincerely,

Anthony Kibble, MSW
Oversight Specialist

AK/LB

c: Robert E. Christian
Mike Heath
Heather Arndt
Susan Case
Major General Harry M. Wyatt III