

# The Virgin Islands Consortium

## Early Morning Unannounced Search Of Golden Grove Prison Cells Yields Multiple Contraband

VIC News / **Published On August 03, 2015 09:28 PM /**

Staff **August 03, 2015**



ST. CROIX -- Diane Prosper, acting Warden of the Golden Grove Adult Correctional Facility (GGACF) and Detention Center, announced the execution of a what officials are calling a "shakedown" at the facility on Friday, July 31. The operation was a collaborative effort of the Bureau of Corrections and the Virgin Islands Police Department toward reducing contraband and improving safety and security at the facility.

"With the assistance of the VI Police Department's Tactical and K-9 Units, we were able to complete a thorough shakedown of two of our most problematic areas within the facility, which included searches of dormitories, vocational shop areas and several other common areas," Prosper said. "The four-hour shakedown took place between 1:00 am

and 5:00 a.m. with an evacuation of all inmates in the targeted units in order to gain access and conduct searches of the areas."

Contraband uncovered included: cell phones, cartons of cigarettes, screwdrivers, shanks, scissors, pocket knives, satellite speakers, cell phone chargers, headphones, marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia, SIM cards, lighters, medication, cell phone batteries, customized fans, ear plug replacements, USB cords, spoiled fruits, poach liquor, a padlock, charger adapters, a drill bit, jewelry, screws and bandage clips.

According to U.S. Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, speaking in relation to a May contraband conviction that landed the felon in jail for 56 months, "Contraband in prison threatens the safety and security of inmates, employees, and the community as a whole. Cell phones, in particular, can be used to facilitate criminal activity inside and outside of Golden Grove including narcotics distribution and murder."

Acting Warden Prosper added that the initiative was in line with renewed efforts to fully restore safety and security for inmates.

"This operation was a demonstration of safety and security efforts being taken toward ensuring that our facility becomes a safer environment for inmates and for staff, and which overall has been deemed successful," she said. "I would be remiss however, if I did not say thank you to the Golden Grove team consisting of sworn and civilian personnel who worked long and hard throughout the operation; and particularly Keith Francois, Security Administrator and Chief Shern Morris who played major roles in the operation's success."

Proper concluded by stating that she remains "appreciative for the continued support and collaboration received and exhibited by the VIPD through the contribution of its resources and manpower," and thanked the BOC's Acting Director Rick Mullgrav for his participation in the operation as well.