

HAMILTON COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES COMPLETE COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY SYSTEM OVERHAUL

STANLEY
Security





CAPTAIN MARK BOWEN

Captain of Administration,
Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

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PROBLEM

After Hamilton County, Indiana, reviewed the security profiles of six facilities – including its judicial and correctional facilities – they decided it was time to enhance and update their security systems to better protect staff, visitors, inmates and residents.

SOLUTION

Partner with STANLEY Security to plan and execute a modernized overhaul of facility security systems.

- Install security components into new facilities to afford protection
- Upgrade outdated security systems across the county's network
- Create an integrated security management system for access control and network infrastructure

OUTCOME

- Seamless installation and integration of hundreds of security components across six facilities
- Trained county staff on new systems in days
- Increased data storage and logging capabilities with a more robust network
- More comprehensive on-premises monitoring and management



Correctional security presents some of the most complex challenges for a security solutions provider. It requires the hardest equipment and careful collaboration between officials, facility staff and installers to get the job done. Ensuring the safety and security of everyone who uses correctional facilities is paramount to success.

STANLEY Security took on this unique challenge in 2019 with a comprehensive security enhancement for the jail and judicial complex in Hamilton County, Indiana. With new and upgraded technologies and a longstanding partnership in place, the company worked closely with the county to install the latest, best protection suite.

GROWING HAMILTON COUNTY HAS MUCH TO SECURE

Located in Central Indiana, Hamilton County includes several large and still-growing Indiana cities and is where about 330,000 Hoosiers live, work, play and raise their families. Like any county, it has facilities to manage judicial and correctional needs. Those facilities include the Hamilton County Jail, Judicial Center, Juvenile Center (now known as the Annex), Community Corrections Center, Jail Housing Pod and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

The jail is typically used to house prisoners for a short period of time, such as the time between arrest and processing or conviction and sentencing. Even so, the movement of the justice system means the daily inmate population is usually between 300-350, not including on-site staff to manage the population and any visitors meeting with inmates. What's more, each facility comes with its own security demands but are all networked together to ensure the Sheriff's Office can properly monitor any situation and respond accordingly.

The man chiefly responsible for ensuring the security of these facilities is Captain Mark Bowen. He's a 27-year veteran of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, having previously served as the Chief Deputy for eight years and the Sheriff for eight more. In January 2019, he was named the Captain of Administration, a new support position dedicated to issues like correctional security.



A SECURITY SYSTEM REFRESH FOR MODERN NEEDS

For some time, Capt. Bowen and other Hamilton County officials had been assessing the need to revamp the security systems in their six facilities. The original systems, dating from 1992, were still in place and functioning, but new technologies, an increased need for digital security and newer facilities to manage encouraged officials to expand their security profile to better protect staff, visitors and inmates within the correctional facilities.

Following an in-depth RFP process, the county chose to work with STANLEY Security to complete the project. Through its 30-year relationship with Hamilton County, STANLEY Security knew the ins and outs of the current systems walking in the door and had deep historical knowledge to bring. The company had installed the original electronic security systems in many of the county's facilities – including the system from 1992.

"We have had a great working relationship with STANLEY Security since the early '90s," said Capt. Bowen, who had worked with STANLEY Security on past projects, including a jail pod housing addition in 2018 while he was sheriff. "They have been a collaborative partner for us; they listen to our needs and provide thorough knowledge and expertise when integrating solutions that best support our facilities."

LARGE SECURITY PROJECT POSES UNIQUE CHALLENGES

The project encompassed a comprehensive security program enhancement. The existing security systems would be upgraded with new technology and capabilities. "We approached STANLEY Security with needs ranging from the ability to increase storage space for digital video to the need for remote access to provide eyes and ears from multiple locations," Capt. Bowen said.

All told, the STANLEY Security team began 2019 with a full list to complete for the project:

- Install and upgrade 750 cameras
- Program 16 touchscreen control stations
- Control and monitor 860 doors and 193 duress stations
- Add digital intercom communication systems to manage 1,087 intercom stations
- Upgrade several access control systems to administer 249 proximity readers
- Upgrade utility control systems to manage 553 utility control points
- Upgrade network infrastructure and allow for data logging of all events

It was important for STANLEY to consider how all these technologies would work together to ensure security. Requirements for corrections security are ever-evolving, systems increase in complexity, and the critical challenges facing every facility leave little room for error. As a result, modern corrections security solutions have become a delicate balance of protection and convenience, state-of-the-art technology and ease of use, and efficiency of a system and the ability to maintain it.

It was a balance STANLEY Security and Hamilton County officials explored in great detail. For 12 months, they worked hand-in-hand to plan every last detail and then install new systems through six phases – one for each facility. The company provided hands-on demonstrations of the technology to ensure all proposed systems would be a good fit for county officials. These systems – including increased camera coverage throughout all areas of the jail – would allow for more comprehensive on-premises monitoring and management.

Installing and integrating highly complex systems across numerous facilities posed unique challenges. Each component had to be rated to the highest, strictest standards to ensure they operated in especially challenging environments. Equipment was also installed in multiple “live” correctional facilities, meaning STANLEY Security had to work closely with county officials to develop strict timelines, which were then communicated to facility staff to prepare for security upgrades.



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EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY MAKE COMPLEX SECURITY SIMPLE

Thanks to detailed assessments, open dialogue channels and the longstanding partnership between STANLEY Security and Hamilton County, the installation process was seamless through all six project phases. The decades-old relationship also provided Hamilton County staff with a strong foundation for understanding the new security system's applications and operations. In fact, all facility staff members were trained in using the new equipment in a matter of days.

Capt. Bowen acknowledged the depth of the project and how much went into bringing it to a successful conclusion. “While this project primarily consisted of updating our systems and solutions, it was incredibly complex due to the various facilities being secured,” he said. “Throughout the entire process, STANLEY Security worked in a professional and efficient manner, making expert recommendations to ensure maximum security, keeping systems online and upgrading our storage so we could effectively maintain our data.”

The full system went live near the end of 2019 and now secures those six facilities to protect staff, visitors and inmates – and the residents of Hamilton County too. Capt. Bowen and Hamilton County know that, as their population grows, they can turn to STANLEY Security as a trusted partner and rely on their longstanding partnership to further safeguard their community.