



COMBATING INMATE FACEBOOK USAGE

Central Office Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Branch



UNCLASSIFIED/LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ONLY/LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

facebook

- As social networking becomes more ingrained into mainstream American culture, more and more inmates are entering the Federal Bureau of Prisons as well as state prison systems with knowledge and experience in this area.
- Institution investigators are reporting increasing instances of inmates with active Facebook accounts. These active accounts are either maintained illegally by inmates or are being administered for the inmate by an outside person or even a third-party vendor.
- Inmate use of Facebook allows unmonitored contact with gang members and other criminals on the street. Not only is this activity a breach of security within prison, but it has the potential to be damaging to persons in the community, particularly minors, and can facilitate continued criminal activity on the part of the incarcerated individuals.

EXAMPLES

- In July 2011, an incarcerated high ranking Blood gang member was found to have a Facebook page which was being maintained by an outside female.
- In March and April 2011, an incarcerated Dead Man Incorporated (DMI) gang member posted several comments on his Facebook page using a cell phone within a prison. The same inmate used the cell phone to maintain contact with DMI members on the street.
- The Facebook pages of two inmates in South Carolina were removed after acquaintances reported the pages to authorities.
- An Aryan Brotherhood member in Oklahoma serving time for murdering a law enforcement officer used Facebook to post photos of himself smoking marijuana and holding alcohol and a weapon inside prison. The photos were uploaded using an illegal cell phone.

THIRD PARTY SOFTWARE- EXAMPLES

- Fantasy M@il:
 - Describe themselves as a full service inmate communications and concierge solution offering inmates the opportunity to feel like they are still part of the world outside of the walls, by giving them access to Facebook and Twitter as well as entertainment news and sports.
 - The website, www.meet-an-inmate.com, uses the facebook group “Lonely Inmates ~ Inmate Penpal Service” as a way to allow inmates to solicit outside people to join their Facebook pages.

- Federal and state inmates are not allowed to use the Internet in any manner which would allow them to maintain their own Facebook account. Facebook users are not allowed to create or maintain accounts for other people, or to share passwords. The company prohibits third-party profiles and takes them down when discovered. Facebook also deactivates prisoner pages, regardless of who set up the pages.
- The Facebook Statements of Rights and Responsibilities specifically states:
 - You will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission.
 - You will not share your password or let anyone else access your account, or do anything else that might jeopardize the security of your account.

WHAT TO DO...

- The Facebook Security Department will work with law enforcement and corrections officials to remove these pages using the following procedures:
 - Email Facebook security at Records@facebook.com with the User ID/URL of the inmate's page. Copy the page URL in the address bar at the top of the inmate's page. Provide sufficient information for the security department to verify the account is either: an inmate using an illegal cell phone, using an unauthorized computer, etc.; or is an outside person administering the page for the inmate.
 - Request the page be disabled and the inmate be prevented from re-establishing a Facebook page.
 - Facebook security will assign staff to review the situation for violations of their Statements of Rights and Responsibilities. Upon Facebook Security Staff verification, the account will be deleted.

EMAIL TO FACEBOOK- EXAMPLE

The Federal Bureau of Prisons is taking proactive steps in curbing inmate use of Social Media. This activity is a breach of security within our prisons, and has the potential to be damaging to persons in the community, particularly minors. During a review of inmate communications, it was noted that Federal inmate XXXXX, currently has a Facebook page he is using to post prison pictures and communicate, potentially with other inmates as well as gang members on the street.

The URL to his page is: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=XXXXX>.

Federal inmates are not permitted internet access which would allow the creation or maintenance of a Facebook page from within prison. Inmate XXXXXX is either using an illegal cell phone, or the page is being administered for him by an outside person. Either manner is prohibited, whether by Federal law which prohibits inmates from possessing cellphones, or by the Facebook Statement of Rights and Responsibilities which states: "You will not provide any false personal information on Facebook, or create an account for anyone other than yourself without permission" and "You will not share your password or let anyone else access your account, or do anything else that might jeopardize the security of your account."

It is requested the page be disabled and inmate XXXXXXXX be prevented from re-establishing a Facebook page.

Thank you for your assistance. Feel free to contact me with any questions...

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Facebook “Statement of Rights and Responsibilities” can be read in it’s entirety at:
- <http://www.facebook.com/terms.php?ref=pf>
- Contact the Central Office Intelligence and Counter Terrorism Branch at **202-514-5855** for additional assistance.