

# A Photo Tour of the Johnson County Jail

511 S Capitol Street  
Iowa City, IA

Lonny Pulkrabek, Sheriff

July 2005

## Jail Public Lobby

Where people meet jail staff to visit inmates, drop off items for inmates, get fingerprinted, and report to serve a sentence.



This is the jail vestibule and inmate intake elevator. When arrestees are brought to jail they are received by jail deputies in this vestibule area where the handcuffs are removed and they are searched for contraband.



## Booking Room (90 sq ft)

Once received in the vestibule area, inmates are taken into the booking room to be processed. This is where all information is gathered from the arrestees and photos and fingerprints are taken.

With the limited space, only one person can be booked in at a time, making the booking process more time consuming. Arresting officers often have to wait in their cars before we can receive their prisoner due to limited space.



As part of the booking process, inmates are required to change into jail clothing and may be required to shower in this area. Inmates meeting certain criteria will be strip searched here.



After the inmate changes, their personal clothing is placed into a mesh storage bag and hung in the storage room until the inmate leaves. With the increase in the number of inmates housed, this can become cramped with the limited space we have in the storage room. This is also where we store jumpsuits, bedding, and hygiene supplies needed on a daily basis for inmates. (99 sq ft)



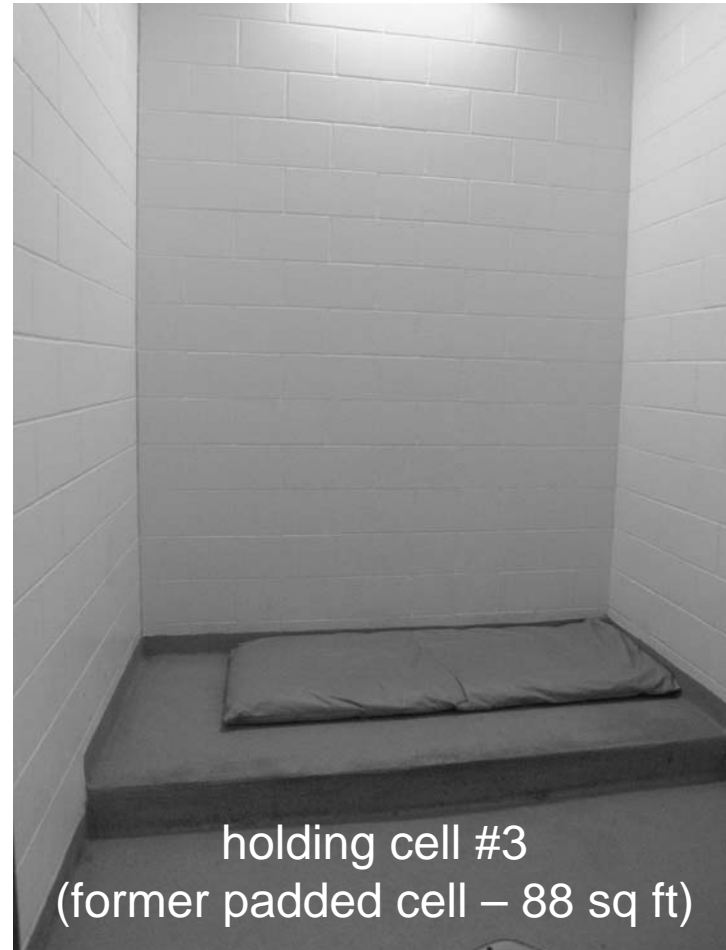
This view shows the changing/shower area and storage room as seen from the booking room



Holding cells are used for housing inmates that are on disciplinary status, have special needs that need to be closely monitored, or as a temporary cell during busy conditions until they can be processed and moved into a cell block.



holding cells  
(three total, on left)



holding cell #3  
(former padded cell – 88 sq ft)



**Holding Cell #2**  
interior view – 112 sq ft



Jail staff checks on welfare of inmate through a viewing window in the cell door. (holding cell #1)

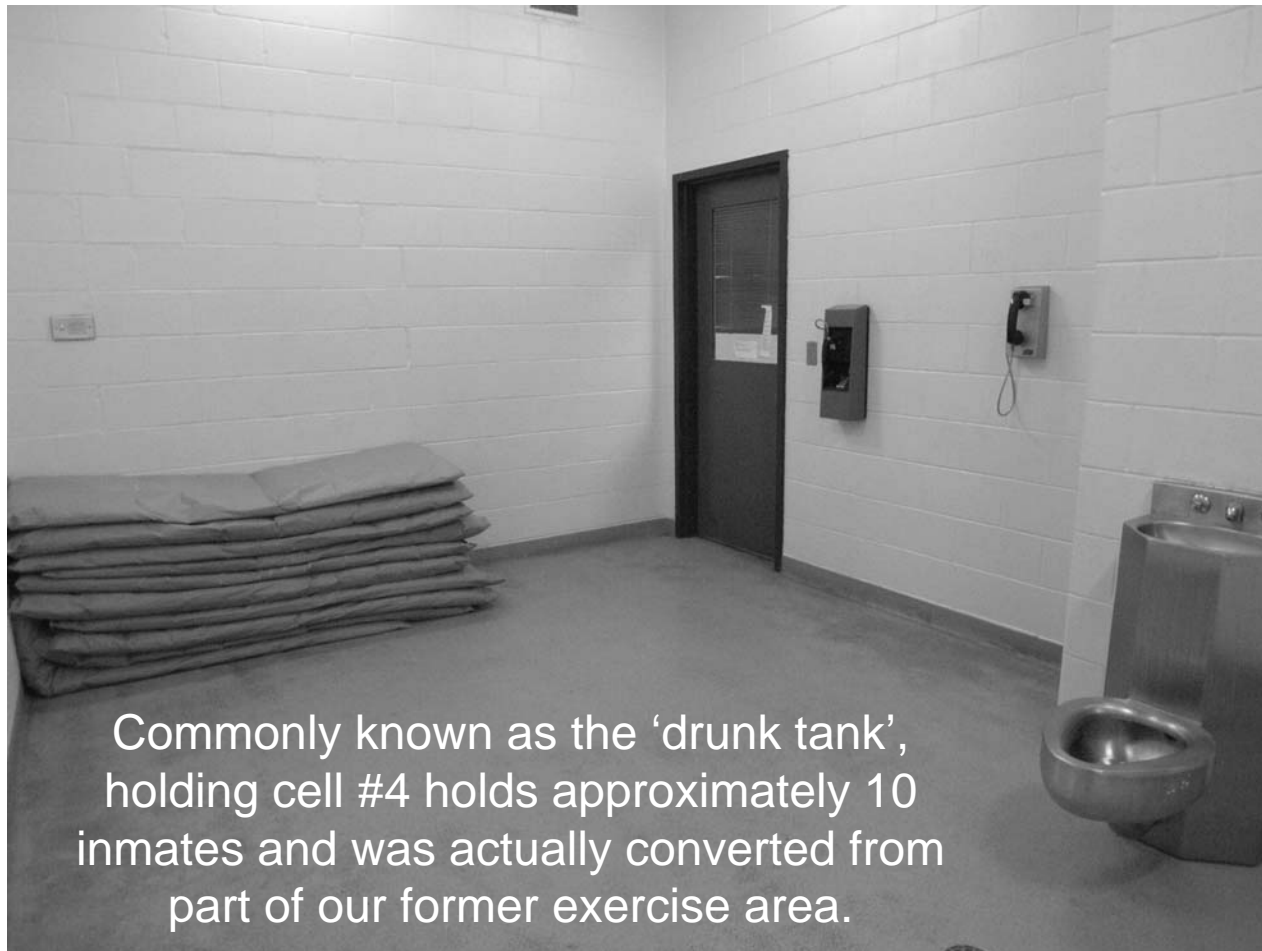


**Holding Cell Hallway**  
north view  
(see control center window at end of hallway)



## **Holding Cell #4**

This is an overnight holding area for inmates waiting to go to court. This cell houses male inmates charged with simple misdemeanors, mainly public intoxication charges.



## **Secondary Booking Room / Work Release Office**

If approved by a judge and the Sheriff, sentenced inmates are eligible for work release privileges. This allows inmates to be released from jail to attend work, returning to jail once their work day is completed.



## Medical Room (120 sq ft)

For those inmates who have a medical concern or want to see a doctor, the Johnson County jail provides medical services through the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics and their physician's assistants. The jail offers this medical clinic two days a week when the PA's from UIHC come to the jail to see those inmates who have medical issues.



**Exercise / Conference Room** (former library – 135 sq ft)

The in house library was eliminated to make room for inmates to exercise two times a week as required by State Jail Standards. Those inmates wanting library materials now get them directly from the Iowa City Public Library through request forms once each week.



This is an area that the State Jail Inspector continues to criticize Johnson County for not having adequate exercise space for its inmates.

## Jail Control Center

The control center is the main hub of operations for the jail.

Here they monitor and control movement of deputies and inmates through a series of electronic doors with the use of an intercom system, two-way radios, and closed-circuit televisions.



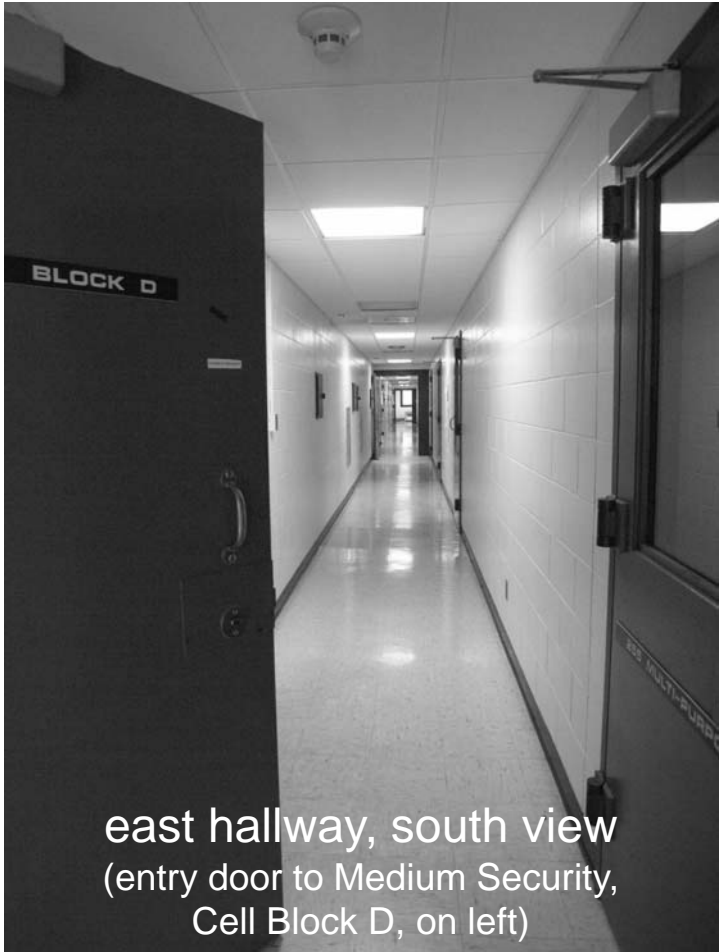


## **Control Center Supervisor Office / Inmate Prescription Drug Cart**

Inmates medications are kept locked and are distributed by jail staff at 6:00 am, 12:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 10:00 pm. This includes requests for over the counter medications.



The Johnson County Jail is made in a linear design and the hallways shown (181' in length) are the access points to the multiple cell blocks and viewing ports. There are a total of nine cell blocks.



## Cell Blocks

There are three maximum security blocks – A, B and C. Cell block A has eight cells and can hold a total of 16 inmates. Cell blocks B and C each have four cells and a capacity of eight inmates each. Medium security, cell block D, has eight cells and can house a total of 16 inmates. There are two female cell blocks (E and F), a medical needs cell block, an overnight cell block, and a minimum security cell block (I) for sentenced inmates. These blocks can house anywhere from four to 16 people. Each cell has approximately 70 square feet. Once capacity has been reached, we are required to transfer inmates to other facilities for housing.

I-block, the minimum security block, is a dormitory-like setting used for minimum security inmates who have been sentenced. It can only hold 16 inmates and they are not locked in their rooms at night.

E-block only has two cells and a four-person capacity. Its primary use is for female inmates waiting for their initial appearance. It is also used as an overflow block when our regular female block is full. F-block is our female block and has four cells and a capacity of eight.

**Minimum Security, Cell Block I**  
capacity 16 (two inmates/cell)



entry door to cell block I



south view

**Medium Security, Cell Block D**  
capacity 16 (two inmates/cell)



north view



south view



two-person cell, block D

**Maximum Security, Cell Block A**  
capacity 16 (two inmates/cell)



north view



two-person cell, block A

## Female Cell Blocks E & F

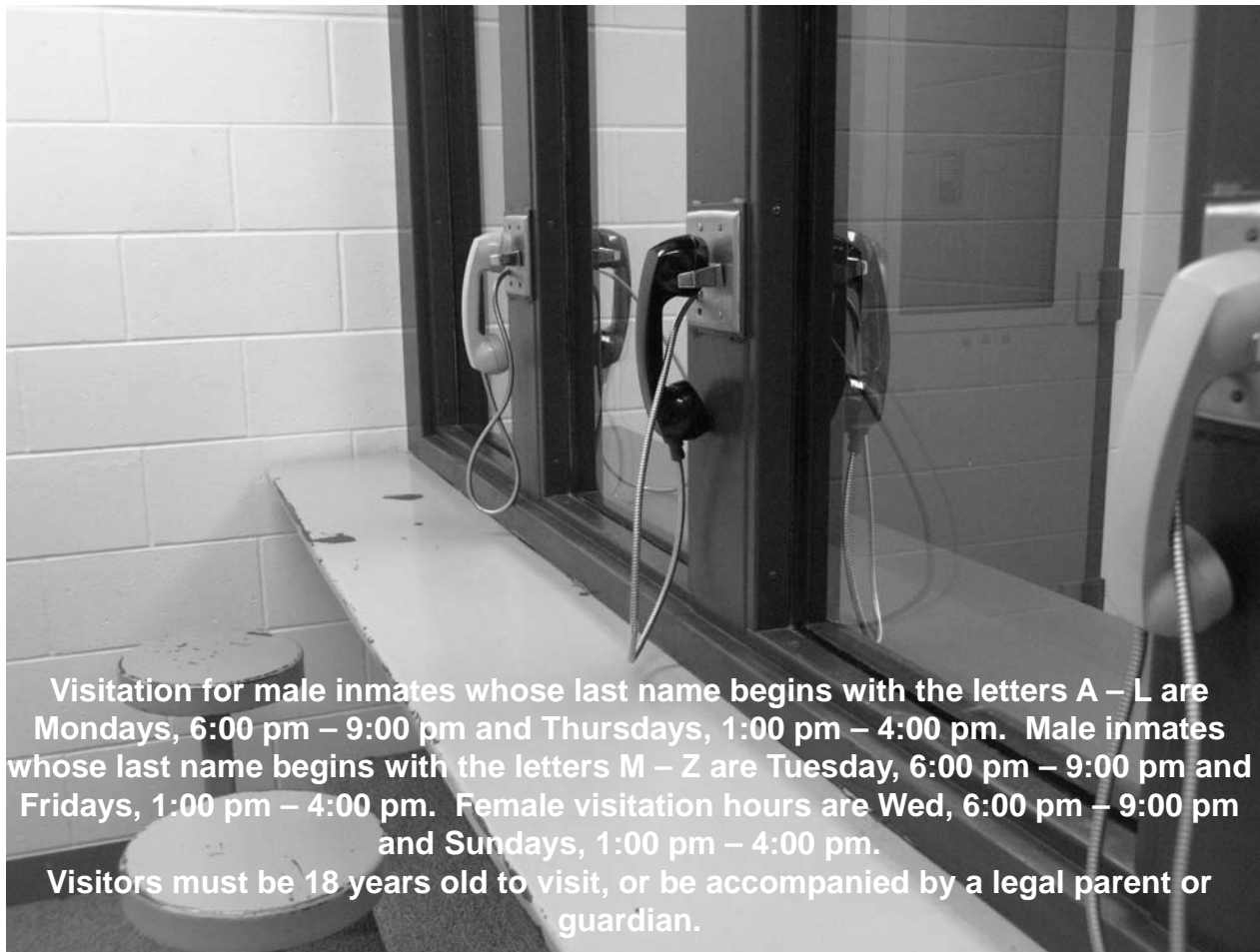


Jail staff must make two cell checks per hour and do those by viewing through the portals shown here.





**Visitation Room:** Inmates are allowed two 20-minute visits per week. Visitors are separated from the inmates by a glass wall and they communicate through a phone.



**Attorney / Client Room**  
**Conference Room / Court Room**  
(divided in half to provide two attorney / client rooms)



Without divider, room expands to serve as jail courtroom and conference room. (see next two pages for courtroom setup)

## **Video Courtroom**

(set up for weekday initial appearances)



Judge is viewed via monitor from the Johnson County Courthouse.  
This eliminates transportation of inmates out of the facility.

## **Non-Video Courtroom** (set up for weekend initial appearances)



Judge is present in the courtroom. This eliminates transportation of inmates out of the facility.

## Jail Kitchen (460 sq ft)

We employ three full-time cooks who cook all meals in-house. The average meal cost is less than \$1.30. The kitchen was originally designed to handle meals for maximum of 46 inmates. The jail was remodeled and all cells double-bunked in the early 1990's but the kitchen did not allow for significant expansion.



The former exercise room was redesigned and cut in half to give the kitchen more room (see page 31) and the other half was turned into the large holding cell, #4 (see page 12).



Jail kitchen storage room for dry goods and supplies.



**Jail Kitchen Storage / Staff Dining**  
(half of former exercise room)



## **Storage in Hallway / Emergency Air Pack**

There are few closets in the hallways to use for storing supplies, resulting in storage wherever room can be found (in this case, in the corner at the end of the hallway).



You will also find air packs hanging on the walls in the hallways. These are to be utilized by deputies for evacuation if a fire were to break out in the jail.



## **Laundry Facilities (96 sq ft)**

All jumpsuits worn by overnight inmates must be washed and returned to storage. The regular inmates that are housed for longer periods have their jumpsuits and under garments washed twice a week. This is done by jail staff and sometimes by an inmate trustee.



## Sally Port

The sally port houses the Johnson County Sheriff's rescue truck. The sally port also serves as a port of entry for arresting officers and their patrol vehicles when transporting high-risk, assaultive, or uncooperative inmates or arrestees.



## **Overflow Inmate Personal Property Storage**

Due to the increase in inmate population and limited storage area, the property for inmates that are housed in other facilities are stored in a locked area of our sally port. This area was created for all of our overflow and this too, is often not enough space.

