



WEBB COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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SHERIFF MARTIN CUELLAR IMPLEMENTS MOTIVATIONAL PROGRAMS AT WEBB COUNTY JAIL

Laredo, Texas (Webb County) - The United States has the highest reported incarceration rate in the world. With 5% of the world's population, our country now houses 25% of the world's reported inmates, Incarcerated drug offenders have soared 1200% since 1980, Four times as many mentally ill people are in jails than in mental health hospitals. With some of these critical statistics, it is imperative that "Motivational Programs" are implemented within our Jail System. These programs are often non-existent within the Criminal Justice system, undermining Public Safety and making it extremely difficult for inmates to become full, contributing members of society.

Sheriff Martin Cuellar recently implemented an "Art" program and a "Clean – up" program at the Webb County Jail. The "Art " program consists of inmates using a handkerchief as a canvas to demonstrate their drawing skills. With the implementation of this program, the inmates will keep occupied and will feel proud of their work. At the same time it will help them stay positive, avoid negative thoughts and relieve boredom. This contest will take place monthly and every inmate will be able to participate, the winners will receive selected items from the Jail Commissary.

A "Clean-up" program was also recently implemented. This program consists of Cells cleaning, the purpose of this programs is mainly to bring awareness of the H1N1 Virus that

has affected many jails within our country. The cells are being checked and graded on a weekly basis, inmates with the cleanest cell at the end of the month will be awarded a prize for their efforts. The judging of the cleanest cell will be done by Jail Administration.

“It is crucial that we continue with these programs and eventually generate more. Inmate treatment is in need of special attention, in spite of the fact that they are jailed for committing an offense we must remember that they are still human”. Sheriff Marin Cuellar stated.

