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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>STATE OF VERMONT</b><br/><b>AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES</b><br/><b>DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS</b></p>   | <p><b>Title:</b><br/><b>SECURITY THREAT GROUPS</b></p> |  | <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Page 1 of 2</b></p> |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |
| <p><b>Chapter:</b><br/><b>Security and Supervision</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b># 427 – “A”</b></p>  | <p><b>Supersedes:</b> #427, dated 05/04/1998</p> |  |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |
| <p><b>Attachments, Forms &amp; Companion Documents:</b><br/>All attachments, forms, and companion documents will be available on the DOC website.</p>   |  |  |  |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |
| <p><b>Local Procedure(s) Required:</b> No<br/><b>Applicability:</b> All staff (including contractors and volunteers)<br/><b>Security Level:</b> “A” – Only Department staff may have access to this document</p>  |  |  |  |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |
| <p><b>Approved:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;"><u>SIGNED</u></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;"><u>02/23/2017</u></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 33%;"><u>03/13/2017</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Lisa Menard, Commissioner</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Date Signed</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>Date Effective</b></td> </tr> </table> |  |  |  | <u>SIGNED</u> | <u>02/23/2017</u> | <u>03/13/2017</u> | <b>Lisa Menard, Commissioner</b> | <b>Date Signed</b> | <b>Date Effective</b> |
| <u>SIGNED</u>   | <u>02/23/2017</u>                                      | <u>03/13/2017</u>                                |  |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |
| <b>Lisa Menard, Commissioner</b>  | <b>Date Signed</b>                                     | <b>Date Effective</b>                            |  |               |                   |                   |                                  |                    |                       |

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this administrative directive is to identify the Vermont Department of Correction’s (DOC) philosophy and policies regarding the identification and monitoring of security threat group (STG) activity or behavior and the renunciation of STG membership.

**PHILOSOPHY**

The DOC recognizes that STG behavior or activity can be a significant risk to the maintenance of safe and secure correctional facilities and compromises public safety. It is the philosophy of the DOC that inmates affiliated with STGs shall be prevented from engaging in behaviors intended to enhance their image or prestige, or that of an identified STG. This includes exercising influence or power within correctional facilities or engaging in antisocial or criminal behaviors. To this end, the DOC identifies and monitors individuals who engage in activities or behaviors associated with STGs, intervenes when appropriate, and holds individuals accountable when they are engaged in such behaviors. The DOC supports inmates who wish to renounce their affiliation with STGs.

**AUTHORITY**

3 V.S.A. 3052; 28 V.S.A. 1, 3, 5, 9, 11

## **POLICY**

It is the policy of the DOC to identify individuals who engage in activities or behaviors associated with STGs. This information is used to provide appropriate risk control through the inmate classification system, housing placements, and the enforcement of facility rules.

The DOC ensures that the rights of inmates are protected within its correctional facilities, as guaranteed in the State of Vermont and United States Constitutions. It shall not be a violation of facility rules for an inmate to be affiliated with an STG or designated as an associate, member, or leader of an STG. Consistent with DOC policies on due process and inmate discipline, only violations of DOC or facility rules shall be grounds for disciplinary action.