



## CORRECTIONS INDUSTRY

# MySmartPlans supports record-breaking CCA project

In 2007, the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) faced an enormous challenge – complete its largest facility in record time.

Instead of the usual two-year project schedule, the demand was to accelerate the 3,240-bed complex to be operational in 18 months. CCA, the nation's largest corrections management provider, has 65 facilities across the country. But this would be the largest to date, and the first developed on a fast-track schedule.



To meet the customer requirements for the La Palma Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, CCA's project leaders knew they'd need good collaboration across the contracting, architectural and development teams. They turned to MySmartPlans.

"It was the one place everyone could go to get real-time information," said Tim Debus, CCA senior director, Project Development, Real Estate.

MySmartPlans was recommended by contractor JE Dunn Construction Co. to support the accelerated development. CCA agreed and MySmartPlans was established as the standard for all dozen of the contracting agencies delivering on the project.

The result? La Palma was operational in 11 months and fully completed by the 13<sup>th</sup> month. By opening the facility ahead of schedule, the owner was able to realize total revenue and cost savings of \$16,060,000.

**Benefits:** The CCA team described a series of advantages that MySmartPlans offered: information management, file access, always-current information, change documentation and enhanced collaboration.

On a typical construction project, there are a series of technical challenges with managing the paperwork that defines and documents the project.

“There’s the difficulty of files sizes,” said Tim Aebie, director of project management for CCA, “and issues with overwriting old files and general file management issues.”

Some of the construction documents in PDF format can be so large that they’re difficult to open, and as a result, they instead are broken into smaller sets. MySmartPlans allowed all the firms collaborating on the project to keep all the files intact.

“We were amazed at how easily we could access drawing files,” Aebie said. “We could open the files and then view or print without any trouble.”

The redline function also garnered fans. “It provides a smart tracking function,” Debuse said, explaining that the added notations helped document and track all changes in the project. The feature was flexible, allowing for back and forth comments and responses, keeping everyone in the loop, and also critical, keeping a record of what happened when, and why.

The development team used MySmartPlans every day. “On a web-based meeting, we found it was easy to have everyone go to MySmartPlans to see the information,” Aebie said.

“At the end of the project,” Debuse said, “all of our information was consolidated and organized on a CD.”

That was a huge benefit, agreed Chris Murphree, director of construction management for CCA. Typically, there are files scattered on a server, in personal folders, in email messages, maybe dumped into a common location, maybe not. “It’s usually not that well organized.”

But with everyone using MySmartPlans, data is organized throughout the project to produce a full record of the daily activity – plans, participants, weather data, changes, materials, schedules, all critical details.



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CCA wrote a new chapter in company lore with this project in other ways. This also was the first project to:

- use a rapid on-demand contracting process with the customer;
- deploy a fast-track permitting process, with support of the local authorities;
- consolidate water resources with other initiatives;
- virtually visualize the structure with 3D modeling technology; and
- phase in operations while completing construction.

The project consisted of three housing compounds on 110 acres. Inmates were housed in the initial compound while the remaining support buildings were still in development. Today, the company reports each compound has offices, a medical clinic, library, chapel and dining area. A central support building contains the primary kitchen, dining areas, medical/dental clinics, laundry, warehouse and administration facilities.

CCA is sold on MySmartPlans, and is currently using it on four additional construction projects – two new developments in Nevada and California, and two expansion projects in Georgia.

That’s proof positive.

For more information on CCA, see [www.correctionscorp.com](http://www.correctionscorp.com).



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