



California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
**OFFICE OF CORRECTIONAL SAFETY**  
**NATIONAL GANG INTELLIGENCE CENTER**  
Criminal Intelligence Analysis Unit



# SITUATIONAL INFORMATION REPORT

## CRIMINAL TRADECRAFT ALERT

Bulletin Number: 2011-02-06

Dissemination: **Restricted to Law Enforcement (NGIC)**

Date: February 28, 2011

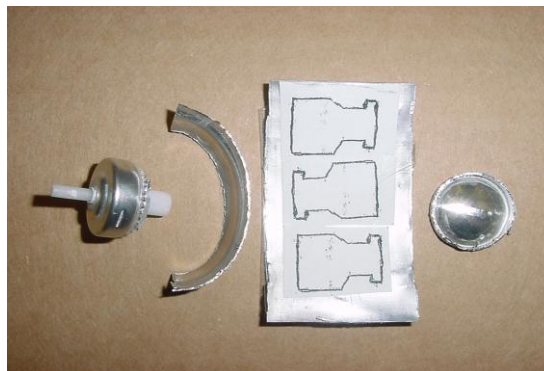
### *Inmate Manufactured Handcuff Key*

This Situational Incident Report is being provided as a reminder that inmates continue to use asthma inhalation aerosol containers to manufacture handcuff keys. The below photos provided by the California Correctional Institution demonstrate the process that has been used by inmates to manufacture these keys:



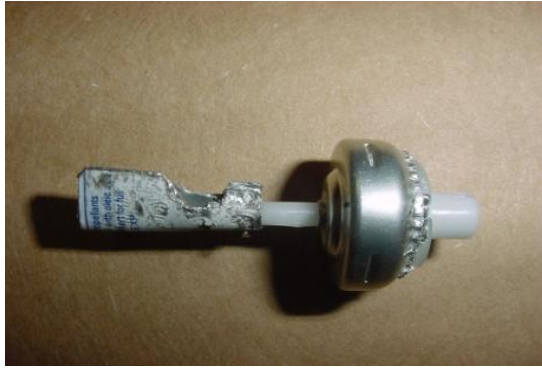
**Photo#1**

Inhalation aerosol container issued to inmates



**Photo #2**

The inhaler is broken down into pieces in preparation for the material to be used to manufacture the handcuff key. Notice how a template is laid over the metal in preparation to cut three keys. This template was discovered in an inmate's property.



**Photo #3**

The rough key is fitted over the plastic tube found in the inhaler so that the handcuff key will have the cylinder shape. This shape is needed to fit over the post found in the locking mechanism in the handcuffs. The rough edges are rubbed off at this point to form a smoother key.



**Photo #4**

The key on the right side of Photo #4 shows the finished handcuff key. During the processing of this key it was necessary to rub the key on a concrete surface to round off rough edges and to further shape the cylinder portion of the key.

**Additional notes:** The key took approximately one hour to complete. Each key can only be used one time as the metal is fragile and only works once. One inhaler will produce three keys and the key will not work if the handcuffs are double locked.

*Reference: Office of Correctional Safety, Emergency Operations Unit, Security Alert 2009-24.*

**Law Enforcement Sensitive:** This information is the property of the CA Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation and the National Gang Intelligence Center. This SIR may be distributed to federal, state, tribal, or local government law enforcement officials with a need-to-know. Further distribution without CDCR and/or NGIC authorization is prohibited. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access.

**Warning:** This is an information report, not finally evaluated intelligence. It is being shared for informational purposes but has not been fully evaluated, integrated with other information, interpreted, or analyzed. Receiving agencies are cautioned not to take actions based solely on this raw reporting unless the information is independently verified. A presumption of innocence still exists for any person being reported on in this report.