

EXCLUSIVE

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Texas prison camp where Ghislaine Maxwell was moved steps up security

Federal Prison Camp Bryan has heightened its measures in recent days in response to Jeffrey Epstein's co-conspirator's being transferred there.



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The federal prison camp in central Texas that [Ghislaine Maxwell was transferred](#) to last week has increased security measures in response to her arrival, according to a senior law enforcement official.

Attributing the enhanced security to Maxwell's presence, the official could not say whether there have been any direct threats to her, other inmates or Federal Prison Camp Bryan itself.

Members of the federal Bureau of Prisons' Special Operations Response Team have been positioned outside the front entrance to FPC Bryan since the weekend to check IDs and wave people through, two current employees told NBC News.

They said it's an unfamiliar sight at the all-women, minimum-security camp where staff members and visitors can generally enter the grounds without going through rigorous security protocol. The camp, which houses about 635 prisoners in a residential neighborhood, has wrought-iron fencing out front, as well as chain-link fencing with razor wire around the perimeter.



— Ghislaine Maxwell has been transferred from a federal prison in Florida to Federal Prison Camp Bryan in central Texas. Suzanne Gamboa / NBC News

The security measures are “not like ones at the penitentiary or medium [security],” an employee, who asked not to be named for fear of job reprisal, told NBC News last week.

Members of the special operations team are highly trained to respond to disturbances and security breaches at federal prisons and are deputized by the U.S. Marshals Service. They were

deployed to anti-police brutality protests during the first Trump administration and, most recently, helped in the response to the deadly July 4 flooding in Texas Hill Country.

A BOP spokesperson said the agency does not "discuss specific security procedures" when asked about the increased security at FPC Bryan and whether it is connected to Maxwell, who was transferred from a low-security facility in Tallahassee, Florida, to FPC Bryan overnight Friday.



— Cars enter the Federal Prison Camp Bryan on Wednesday. David J. Phillip / AP

Maxwell's attorney, David Oscar Markus, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday. Markus has also not responded to previous questions about Maxwell's safety and details surrounding her transfer.

Maxwell, 63, is serving a 20-year prison sentence for her role in recruiting and trafficking minors for sex as a co-conspirator and confidant to [wealthy financier Jeffrey Epstein](#). In 2019, Epstein killed himself in a New York City jail cell as he was facing charges of sex trafficking and conspiracy.

But his case has come under [renewed scrutiny in recent weeks](#) after the Trump administration decided not to release all federal files related to Epstein, prompting [outcry from parts of Trump's base](#) who have [fueled conspiracies](#) and pushed unfounded narratives surrounding Epstein's death.

Maxwell, too, returned to the spotlight when it was revealed that Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche met with her last month for nine hours over two days in a federal courthouse in Tallahassee.

A source familiar with the matter [told NBC News](#) on Tuesday that the Trump administration is considering releasing a transcript from the interview.

But it remains unclear why Maxwell, just days after the meeting with the Justice Department's second-in-command, was transferred to FPC Bryan, where, employees say, inmates are granted more freedoms in dormitory-style housing in which their rooms aren't locked and they can roam outdoor and recreational spaces.

Trump told reporters Tuesday that he was unaware that Maxwell had been moved to the Texas camp until after it occurred and that transfers like Maxwell's were common.

But the BOP's own policy indicates Maxwell should be ineligible to be housed at a minimum-security prison camp because she is a convicted sex offender.

A sex offender must be in at least a low-level security prison like the one Maxwell was housed in previously, unless a waiver is granted by the administrator of the BOP's Designation and Sentence Computation Center.

Maxwell's presence at FPC Bryan has [stoked outrage](#) among some current and former BOP employees who question why she would be placed there given her sex offense charges and the level of security she would require. The majority of inmates at the camp are serving time for nonviolent offenses and white-collar crimes.

The family of Epstein abuse survivor Virginia Giuffre, joined by Epstein and Maxwell accusers Annie and Maria Farmer, have also criticized Maxwell's move. They said in a statement that "she should never be shown any leniency" as a convicted sex offender.

Charles Lockett, a former federal prison warden who spent 31 years with the BOP, said he would have never approved the transfer of such a high-profile inmate to a place like FPC Bryan.

Lockett said he'd be especially concerned about the safety risks posed to Maxwell, as well as those who work there.

"They don't have the manpower there to deal with such people, and they don't have the hardened structure," said Lockett, who oversaw the Florida prison where [Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger](#) was held before his doomed transfer to a facility in West Virginia. "I just find it unbelievable."



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