



"A publication of the American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network"

ROLL CALL

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EDITORS NOTE: "Guards"

One of our readers wrote recently to complain that the articles in Roll Call briefing often refer to our profession as 'guards' or in other unflattering terms. We completely agree and believe that changing our image is just the first step in getting our issues addressed. However, we cannot change the content of these articles as written. We do not write these articles they come from various news sources around the globe.

However we do attempt to notify the authors that the language they use is often offensive to the men and women who walk the toughest beat in law enforcement. We ask that if an article comes from your jurisdiction and contains unflattering terms to describe our profession that you drop them a line and let them know how you feel.



2011 ACO Fall Conference

More information to be Announced...



Six years jail for prison guard's death

Published: 3:47PM Friday September 17, 2010

The inmate charged with the manslaughter of a guard at Spring Hill Prison has been sentenced to six years and four months in jail.

Latu Kepu pleaded guilty to assaulting 33-year-old Jason Palmer earlier this year, resulting in his death.

The sentence has been added to the two years and eight months he is already serving for a raft of violent offences, including assaulting a police officer.

Palmer, 33, was the first prison guard to die on duty in New Zealand.

A married man with two children aged five and two, Palmer had been a prison officer at the Spring Hill Corrections facility since last November.



The former US Marine was born in South Carolina and had lived in New Zealand for about eight years.

Palmer sustained fatal injuries during an assault at the prison as he was unlocking a cell. He was taken to Middlemore Hospital in a critical condition and died a few hours later.

Corrections chief executive Barry Matthews said at the time that although there were three officers present, Palmer was punched and knocked unconscious, hitting the ground and, as a result, suffered irreversible brain damage.

He said there was nothing to indicate that what the officers did was "anything other than proper procedure".

Matthews said Spring Hill is a low to medium security facility and Kepu had been flagged as a risk with arrangements in place at the time to transfer him to the maximum security unit in Auckland Prison at Paremoremo.

The incident prompted guards to demand armour and weapons, with Corrections Association president Beven Hanlon saying the police deal with the same people but have dogs, stab proof vests and weapons, including Tasers.



Prison officer fought for his life during inmate attack

Published on Wed Sep 29 13:42:13 BST 2010

A prison officer broke down in court as he told of his fight for life as a prisoner tried to strangle him with a shoelace in Middlesex.

Nicholas Hilton, 29, wept as he told an Old Bailey jury that grey-haired Karen Easterbrook, 55, had used "lethal" force.

He said Easterbrook, who had been jailed for life for attempted murder the day before, had slipped the lace over his head in a segregation unit at Bronzefield prison.

Mr Hilton said: "In an absolute bout of shock and horror, my instinct was to save myself because I knew she was trying to kill me. In the struggle, I managed to slip it over my head. It was difficult. The first thing in my mind was to save my life."

Mr Hilton said he and a female officer then tried to pull Easterbrook off inmate orderly Alison Bailey, as she tried to put the taut lace around her throat.

"She was so strong," he said explaining that he had to cut the trainer lace with a knife to break Easterbrook's grip. "Alison was totally hysterical, totally broken down," he added.

Ms Bailey sobbed as she told the court: "She didn't blink, she didn't flinch - it was like she was in a trance. I was so shocked, scared."

Easterbrook, of no fixed address, denies two counts of attempted murder in July, 2008. Ruby Selva, prosecuting, has told the court Easterbrook had been angered at her Nottingham Crown Court sentencing the day before. Copyright (c) Press Association Ltd. 2010, All Rights Reserved.

Prison Dogs Tracked Down Suspect for 9 Hours

LA JOYA - Authorities are crediting three prison guards with helping them nab a suspected smuggler that refused to surrender. La Joya police say the dogs trailed the wanted man for 9 hours.

Early this morning the suspected smuggler was driving a pickup near FM 2221 when he lead officers on a chase. He bailed from the truck and began running. Police recovered 500 pounds of marijuana inside his truck.



As part of a new partnership between the La Joya Police Department and the Segovia Correctional Facility near Edinburg, jailers



brought eight trained prison dogs to the scene. Border Patrol also brought in a chopper to assist searchers on mounted horses.

After several hours and no sign of the suspect the search was called off. Only five of the eight dogs looking for the suspect returned from the brushy area. The other three dogs were not ready to give up. Officers set out in the brush to find them. Nine hours later they found the dogs and the suspect.

The La Joya Police Chief says when the suspect saw officer he was exhausted and immediately surrendered. The 35-year-old man from Rio Grande City was hungry and dehydrated. He is expected to be okay.

The suspect goes before a judge tomorrow morning.

Inmate at Susanville prison shot, killed by guard

SUSANVILLE, Calif. (AP) — An inmate at High Desert State Prison in Susanville has been shot and killed by a guard during a fight involving three inmates.

Prison officials say the 40-year-old inmate was shot after two inmates attacked a third inmate in the prison's recreation yard around 11 a.m. Saturday

As one of the attacking inmates choked the third inmate to the point of unconsciousness, officials say a prison guard fired one round from his rifle, hitting one of the inmates in the upper body.

That inmate died after being taken to the prison's treatment center. It's not clear which inmate was shot. The name of the inmate has not been released.

Officials say he had been serving time at the prison since 2007 after being convicted in San Francisco of first degree murder, attempted murder, rape by force, and burglary.

For 3rd time, woman charged with attacking a jail guard

September 10, 2010 1:34 PM

A woman sent to prison last week for assaulting a Cook County Jail correctional officer has been charged with assaulting another officer just days before she was to be sent to prison.

Sabrina Streeter, 27, was charged with aggravated battery to an officer, a felony. This is the third time in the last 12 months she has been charged with attacking a correctional officer, according to the sheriff's office.

Streeter was jailed in August 2009 after being arrested in Burbank for prostitution, the office said. In March of this year, she was charged with assaulting a correctional officer and was sentenced to 364 days in the Cook County Jail.

But in June, she was charged with aggravated battery to another officer, the sheriff's office said. She pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in state prison.





On Aug. 22, a first-year correctional officer went to Streeter's cell to let her out for an hour of recreation, the office said. Because of the prior incidents, her movements were being videotaped, the sheriff's office said.

When the female officer opened Streeter's cell door, Streeter stepped out and punched the officer in the face and was arrested.

Ten days later, Streeter was taken to the Dwight Correctional Center to begin serving her three-year sentence. She will be transported back to the Cook County Jail for hearings on the most recent case, the office said.

SC prison guard attack renews push to jam smuggled phones; wireless industry backs alternative

Published September 13, 2010 | Associated Press
in an attack planned with a smuggled phone.

Corrections Department Capt. Robert Johnson was getting ready to go to work at Lee Correctional Institution about 50 miles east of Columbia one day last March. Around 5:30 a.m., a man broke down the front door of Johnson's mobile home, shooting the 15-year prison veteran six times in the chest and stomach.

"I heard a yell, 'Police!'" said Johnson, 57, who believes the intruder may have been impersonating an officer. "I came out the bathroom door, and there was this person there. I really don't remember the rest. From the trauma, my mind just went blank."

Six months into his recovery, Johnson and his bosses want Congress to change a 1934 law that says the Federal Communications Commission can grant permission to jam the public airwaves only to federal agencies, not state or local ones.

The cell phone industry says the jamming methods some states want can interfere with emergency communications and legitimate cell phone use in the area. They advocate other, potentially more expensive technology that they say can be more precise but has seen only limited use.

While authorities say Johnson is the first corrections officer in the U.S. harmed by a hit ordered from inmate's cell phone, other people have been targets. In 2005, a New Jersey inmate serving time for shooting at two police officers used a smuggled phone to order a fatal attack on his girlfriend, who had given authorities information leading to his arrest.

Two years later, a drug dealer in Baltimore's city jail used a cell phone to successfully plan the killing of a witness who had identified him as the gunman in a previous killing. And in 2008, a Texas death row inmate used a cell phone to threaten the life of a state senator.

After that attempt, U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady, both Texas Republicans, introduced companion bills that would allow states to petition the FCC for permission to jam calls. The Senate passed its version, but the House version has languished, and supporters don't expect it to move forward soon.

"It's something that needs to be done," Johnson said. "It will make the place more safe for the employees that are there and the public."



Jamming opponents say the technology could play havoc with communications between guards and paramedics, not to mention citizens near prisons.

"Signals don't stop and start at defined borders," said John Walls, a spokesman for CTIA-The Wireless Association, which represents cell phone companies.

Walls and others opposed to jamming advocate alternative ways to combat smuggled phones, including something called managed access, which routes all calls coming from a certain area, regardless of carrier, to a third-party provider. That company checks each phone's signature against a database of approved numbers, blocking those that aren't on the list. Such technology works "like a scalpel" instead of simply blocking all calls, Steve Largent, CTIA's chief executive, wrote on his blog Friday.

Authorities activated one such system last month at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman, and plan to expand it to two other facilities in the state. FCC officials on hand for a demonstration last week pledged to work with other states that want to try it.

"We're desperate, we'll try anything," South Carolina prisons chief Jon Ozmint said.

South Carolina got the FCC's permission in 2008 to conduct a one-time test of a jamming system at Lieber Correctional Institution, home to the state's death row. Officials flipped a switch on a briefcase-sized device, which emitted a frequency that immediately shut down cell phones around the auditorium, while outside, cell service was uninterrupted. Those results more than satisfied Ozmint.

Maryland has tested similar equipment. Texas called off its own demonstration after state prosecutors advised prison officials the test would violate federal law. The FCC has denied requests from the District of Columbia and Louisiana.

"The next hit's being planned, and waiting for this technology is going to do nothing but cost more lives," Ozmint said.

That March morning, Johnson was dressing and shaving in a bathroom when he heard someone kick in the front door. His wife Mary stirred in the couple's bedroom, hearing a struggle, then her husband's voice.

"He yelled, 'You going to shoot me? You going to shoot me?'" she said. "I stood a minute, and then I actually heard the shots."

The bullets narrowly missed most of Johnson's major organs, though one nicked his liver. He spent months in the hospital, losing 40 pounds he's now struggling to gain back. There have been eight surgeries, with more to come. After hours of daily rehabilitation, Johnson can walk with a cane and dress without help. He's even ready to start learning to drive again.

No arrests have been made in Johnson's case, though state police Chief Reggie Lloyd said investigators are confident that the attacker was acting on directions from an inmate who had a cell phone.

Johnson said he doesn't know if he'll return to work at the prison where police say the plot on his life was planned.

In three months last year, guards at Johnson's prison confiscated nearly 300 phones — many thrown into the prison exercise yard hidden inside packages and footballs, he said.

"A lot of people are getting hurt unnecessarily," Johnson said. "They're setting up hits and all kind of things from prison, using cell phones. ... Congress has to step up and do the right thing."



Jail cops bite the bullet on pay cut

BY AMY SHERMAN AND DANIEL CHANG

Facing the threat of layoffs, jail workers caved to the demands of Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti, announcing Friday they had agreed to major pay cuts.

Detention deputies voted Thursday to accept an agreement with the Broward Sheriff's Office that will cut their salaries by about \$11,000 a year. About 250 workers – those with the least seniority – face the pay cuts. Three of four workers are black.

The pay cuts, and reclassification to the title of detention technician, are effective Saturday, said union leader Anthony Marciano, who represents the jail workers.

"I think reality sets in – they realized this was going to happen," Marciano said Friday. "There was an intimidation factor. They called everybody in one by one and gave layoff" notices.

Dan Reynolds, president of the Federation of Public Employees, said he signed the agreement and sent it to the union attorney Friday morning to forward to BSO. But it was unclear if BSO had received the agreement. BSO spokesman Jim Lejedal would not confirm a deal had been reached Friday.

Last week, the Federation of Public Employees voted against the pay cuts – about 150 participated in the vote. BSO has about 1,300 detention deputies.

But workers started to get cold feet this week as they were handed notices stating they would be terminated. Lamberti said if the deputies didn't want to return to BSO to earn the lesser paycheck in the reclassified job, the sheriff was prepared to replace them. Lamberti announced Monday that he had already advertised the jobs and received 236 applications.

Starting pay will drop from about \$39,477 for a detention deputy to \$28,600 for a reclassified detention technician.

Marciano said BSO had offered through negotiations to lessen the pay cut by about \$3,300 per worker – but that was in exchange for the union signing off on a statement in the agreement that would have hurt the union's complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. That charge relates to the fact that the vast majority of the workers facing the pay cuts are black.

By reaching an agreement with BSO, the union will drop a separate grievance, and preserve for the lower-paid tech-



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nicians a chance to reclaim their higher-paying jobs as remaining detention deputies leave. But that could take a few years, he said.

Lamberti proposed pay cuts in response to county commissioners' demands that he slash his budget to make up for falling property tax revenues. Lamberti initially proposed cutting about \$23 million – and that included the detention worker pay cuts that he said would save about \$5 million. Earlier this month county commissioners rejected the proposed budget and sent Lamberti back to cut an additional \$21.8 million out of the \$425 million portion of his budget.

County officials asked Lamberti to submit a new budget by Friday – something he hadn't done as of Friday afternoon. County commissioners meet Tuesday to take a tentative vote on the budget, including BSO. A final vote is scheduled for Oct. 5.

It's unclear if Lamberti intends to submit a new budget next week or if he plans to defy the commission and refuse additional cuts. That could mean the county would cut his budget anyway and Lamberti would appeal to the Florida Cabinet – a potentially lengthy and politically messy scenario since neither side knows who will be the next governor and other Cabinet members.

On Monday, about 100 jail workers marched in front of BSO's headquarters carrying signs with slogans, including "Lamberti's dirty." Lamberti said he was insulted by the union's suggestion that he was racist. And in a county where blacks comprise 21 percent of the electorate, the union failed to inspire Broward's black political leaders to organize any sort of visible protest.

Most of Broward's black politicians are Democrats and some said they were respecting the union's process in its negotiations with Lamberti.

Though union leaders reached an agreement with Lamberti, tensions remain.

"I can't see us ever endorsing Al Lamberti as sheriff," Marciano said.

The union endorsed Lamberti's Democratic opponent Scott Israel in 2008. BSO law enforcement deputies who work for the Police Benevolent Association backed Lamberti last time in exchange for a favorable contract with up to double digit raises.

"My people are paying for the raises he gave out," Marciano said. "My people are the ones taking the brunt of this. His fiscal mismanagement is the reason my people are getting cut."

PBA president Patrick Hanrahan said his workers did not face pay cuts and are scheduled to vote on a contract in the next couple of weeks that calls for no pay raises for the next year. Then the union would return to negotiations with Lamberti – about one year before he would face voters.

Lamberti's next political challenge could be deciding whether to switch parties – a decision he has said he won't make until after the November election.

If he becomes a Democrat, he will align himself with the majority of the voters in Broward, where Democrats have a 2-1 advantage over Republicans. Lamberti is the only countywide Republican office holder in Broward – and pulled off that feat in the high Democratic turnout in 2008.

"He has two years to get cozy with the Democrats," said pollster Jim Kane, who predicts if Lamberti switches, it will closely follow the November election. "Switch now he can make up with Democrats, solidify and make sure he wins."



D.C. Jail Inmates Cast Votes

Misdemeanor Offenders Cast Their Vote for Mayor
By ARLENE BORENSTEIN
UPDATED 8:15 PM EDT, FRI, SEP 10, 2010

The group of inmates cast their ballots today with the help of a host of organizations, including the D.C. Board of Elections, D.C. Jail, the Ward 8 Voter assurance campaign and the Reentry Network for Returning citizens.

The voting took place at the D.C. Detention Center in Southeast.

Several community representatives spoke out in support of the inmates, including Ward 8 ANC Commissioner Sandra Seegars.

"I think this is a part of showing respect to humans period, regardless of their background or whatever they've done in life," Seegars said. "It's a matter of respect, giving them citizenship and encouraging them to be a part of society."

The Reentry Network for Returning citizens had a big part in educating the inmates on their right to vote. The organization helps released inmates make a successful transition into society.

Under city law, those jailed for misdemeanors have the right to vote, along with those awaiting trial.



About 1,500 jail inmates will make a difference in D.C.'s mayoral race

Herlong federal prison on lock down after 20 inmates fight; six inmates hospitalized

The federal prison in Herlong remains on lock down today after a fight Monday in the recreation yard between 20 inmates using homemade weapons.

Six inmates were taken to hospitals for injuries from the medium-security prison 50 miles northeast of Reno, according to a statement from the prison. Staff members were also injured and were treated at the prison. The number was described in the statement only as several.



Corrections Around the World

AUSTRALIA: Prison guard attack 'brutal'

ABC September 23, 2010, 1:06 pm

Prison authorities in Tasmania say the attack on six prison guards yesterday was brutal and unprovoked and had nothing to do with conditions.

Risdon Prison near Hobart remains in lockdown after maximum security prisoners attacked and injured six guards in two separate attacks.

It comes after an Ombudsman's report in June described the unit as inhumane and without activities or rehabilitation facilities.

Prisoner advocates say the violence was triggered by the inmates' boredom and frustration but the acting director of prisons, Greg Partridge, has rejected the claims.

He says the attacks were unprovoked and were not in response to lockdowns or prison conditions. The Minister for Corrections says he made bedside visits to the injured officers who have since been released from hospital.



Nick McKim has told Parliament any assault of correctional officers is unacceptable.

"I wish the officers involved, I'm sure on behalf of all members of this house, a speedy recovery."

"I did pop out to Hobart Private Hospital briefly last night Mr Speaker to pass on my personal thanks to the officers and my best wishes to them and their families."

"We are striving every single day to make our prisons the safest workplace they can be. Now, I am not going to stand here and promise that there will be no more serious incidents of this type because I am unable to do that," he said.



ENGLAND: Prison population at record level

Fri Sep 24, 10:35 am ET

LONDON (AFP) – The prison population in England and Wales has reached a record level of 85,368 people, according to figures released by the Ministry of Justice.

The total is 167 more than the previous record of 85,201 reached on May 21, the figures showed.

Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke has said the prison population is too high and that there should be greater emphasis on rehabilitation and community sentences.

A Prison Service spokesman said: "The total prison population on Friday September 24 2010 was 85,368. This is 176 more than last Friday when the total was 85,192.

"Usable operational capacity on September 24 was 87,628. In addition Operation Safeguard remains in place and can provide up to 400 places. Highest published figure is today, September 24 2010 - 85,368."

The number of prisoners, comprising 81,086 men and 4,282 women, is almost 1,000 more than the corresponding Friday 12 months ago when the total was 84,382, the Ministry of Justice said.

The record high is more than 14 percent higher than six years ago, figures for previous years showed.

Jon Collins, campaign director for the Criminal Justice Alliance which represents 48 organisations, said: "Today's record prison population figures are a warning for the government that they must act urgently to reduce the number of people in prison.

"There isn't the money available for the government to try and build their way out of this prisons crisis. Two decades of mismanagement of the criminal justice system have resulted in a huge and unsustainable prison population.

"Unless action is taken to reduce the number of people in custody, the prison system will be simply unable to cope.

"The prison population has almost doubled since the early 1990s. Instead of continuing their predecessor's failed policy of mass prison-building, the Government should do the sensible thing and make the changes that would result in a reduced use of prison," Collins said.

IRELAND: Prison officer stabbed at Maghaberry jail

20 September 2010 Last updated at 02:27 ET

Police are investigating an attack at Maghaberry jail in County Antrim after an inmate stabbed a prison officer in the neck with a pen.

A number of other prison officers suffered minor injuries in the attack which happened shortly after 1100 BST on Sunday.

The injured officer was taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital. His condition is not known at this stage.





The Prison Officers' Association said it showed how dangerous the job is.

"This is part and parcel of a prison officer's job.

"This is a possibility that he faces every day in his working environment," the association's Finlay Spratt said.

"It's not really appreciated the work prison officers do and the type of volatile people that we have to work with."

85 prisoners escape jail on Mexico-U.S. border

Fri Sep 10, 5:44 pm ET

MONTERREY, Mexico (Reuters) – Eighty-five prisoners escaped from a jail near the U.S. border on Friday, authorities and media said, the latest prison break underscoring the challenges Mexico faces as it battles powerful drug cartels.

The prisoners, mainly cartel members, climbed over a prison fence in the border city of Reynosa, across from McAllen, Texas, in the early hours of Friday morning, local radio and newspapers reported, saying 85 men escaped.

A spokesman for Mexico's attorney general's office in Reynosa confirmed the jailbreak but declined to give details.

Police arrested more than 40 prison guards and staff who were on duty when the men escaped, and two prison guards are missing, local radio and newspaper El Norte said.

The jailbreak follows a scandal in July, when authorities discovered that prison officials had allowed convicts out of a prison in northwestern Durango state to carry out revenge attacks before returning to cells for the night.

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who sent thousands of troops across the country to fight drug gangs, has vowed to clean up prisons that in the past have allowed jailed drug lords to live in luxury or escape when they please.



AP – Unidentified alleged gunmen stand next to seized guns and drugs during a presentation to the media .

But the conservative leader has struggled to contain corruption and lawlessness in the Mexican prison system.

Officials say rising drug violence across Mexico is a sign the army is weakening powerful cartels, but Calderon is under enormous pressure to stop escalating drug violence that has killed over 28,000 people since late 2006.

The murders of 25 people by suspected hitmen in Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso, Texas, on Thursday was the bloodiest day in almost three years in an area gripped by an escalating drug war, officials said on Friday.

Gunmen burst into several houses in Ciudad Juarez and shot people accused of working for rival drug gangs, a spokesman for the Chihuahua state attorney general's office said on Friday.

Four bystanders were also killed on Thursday as a convoy of hitmen shot its way out of traffic in Ciudad Juarez, local newspaper El Diario said. Police declined to confirm that report, but said 25 people had died in drug violence, in the worst single day of killings in Ciudad Juarez since January 2008, when recent drug murders began.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton raised concerns this week about drug cartels in the region and said Mexico was starting to resemble Colombia 20 years ago, when drug traffickers controlled certain parts of that nation.



President Barack Obama rejected the comparison.

Mounting insecurity in Mexico could eventually pose a threat to efforts to pull Latin America's second-largest economy out of its worst recession since 1932. Export-driven cities like Ciudad Juarez, which lost 75,000 manufacturing jobs last year, have suffered particularly during the downturn.

Convicted UK terrorist cracks after losing jail egg race

September 06, 2010 3:25AM

A MEMBER of the failed London 21/7 suicide bombing gang threw a tantrum when he came second in a prison sports day egg and spoon race, it has emerged.

Convicted terrorist Manfo Kwaku Asiedu, 37, was competing at the high security Wakefield jail in northwestern England when he was beaten to first place by Rangzieb Ahmed, 34, British newspaper the *Sunday Mirror* reported.

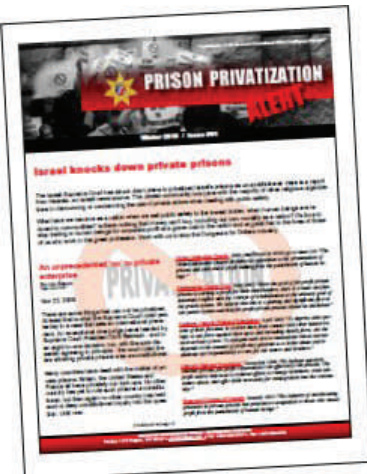
Ahmed was jailed for masterminding the failed July 21 attacks on the British capital, the report said.

Infuriated by Ahmed's narrow victory, Asiedu kicked his hard-boiled egg around the exercise yard before stamping on it, according to the newspaper.

A source at the prison told the newspaper: "He lost by a whisker, but couldn't contain his anger, kicking the egg around the exercise yard in frustration then stamping on it.

"Both of them were very competitive and really wanted to win."

The source continued: "These two convicted terrorists are supposed to be serving long sentences, not messing around like kids. It would have been hilarious if it wasn't so sickening."



Privatization Alert: the American Correctional Officer Intelligence Network has added another tool to our professions arsenal.

Our Private Prison Report will be issued quarterly to keep you abreast of what is happening in this critical area.

For the latest issue visit our website:

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