

## Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Employee Oral History Collection Project

Interviewee: Francis “Chip” Rice  
Topic: **The 1989 SCI Camp Hill Riots**  
Interview Date: September 5, 2019  
Interviewer: DOC Communications Director Susan McNaughton

### **Interview Transcript**

**McNaughton:** Welcome to the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections’ Oral History Project where we are recording the oral histories of current and former DOC employees. I’m DOC Communications Director Susan McNaughton. This oral history focuses on memories from the October 1989 riot at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill. Our guest today, September 5, 2019, is Francis “Chip” Rice. Thank you for joining us, Chip.

**Rice:** Glad to be here. Thank you, Sue.

**McNaughton:** Before we begin, can you please provide us with a brief overview of your DOC career, tell us at which facilities you worked and the titles that you held.

**Rice:** I started my career with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections in September 1984 and after the riots at Camp Hill, in April 1990, I was reassigned as a temporary duty as an instructor at the Training Academy for a one-year term. I think they forgot to send me back, because I just became permanent at the academy. I was an instructor down there. Until we had a safety manager, I did the fire safety responsibilities. I promoted to sergeant and in 2001, I received my commission as a lieutenant and was the field liaison supervisor responsible for conducting training audits at all of the corrections facilities and conducting training audits at some county facilities at the time who were under our wing. I continued with that career until January 2014, after 29 years and eight months it was time to retire.

**McNaughton:** Wow. What a great career. Tell us about the Camp Hill Riot and what you remember. It’s Wednesday, October 25, 1989, around 2:30... 3 o’clock...



**Francis “Chip” Rice**

**Rice:** Yes. I was assigned the 6 to 2 shift that day and was working in Group 1, and I got home at about 2:30 p.m. My wife was home with my two-year-old daughter and both of them had the flu. We had heard word through the grapevine that the CERT team was going to have some practice or drill within the next week or two. When I got home, the phone rang, and I picked it up and it was Lt. Bud Cooney, and he said, “We need you back over at the facility. We’ve got a situation.” I said to Bud, who was a CERT team leader, “Bud, the family is sick. I’m not coming in. They have the flu.” He said, “No. They’ve taken it. We’re on fire. Get in.” That’s when I reported for the first day.

**McNaughton:** Where did you live at the time?

**Rice:** Susquehanna Township, Dauphin County.

**McNaughton:** Ok, so about a 20-minute ride?

**Rice:** Yes. I do remember when I was going across the South Bridge at approximately 85 miles and hour, I was passed by five or six state police cars going even faster.

**McNaughton:** As you are approaching the facility, are you coming in off of the Cedar Cliff Exit [of I-83 south] the back way? What do you see in the sky?

**Rice:** I just saw the smoke and, as a volunteer fire fighter/EMT, I knew we had something going on. They had a roadblock... they had a trooper setting up a roadblock at the time. I identified myself and he sent me on, and I arrived on scene.

**McNaughton:** Were you in uniform? Did you change into your uniform in order to go to work, or did you [wear] whatever you had on?

**Rice:** Just whatever I had on at the time.

**McNaughton:** Luckily, we had badges that helped us get through roadblocks.

**Rice:** Yeah.

**McNaughton:** So, you pull into the institution and then what?

**Rice:** We assembled in an area. The CERT team technically... we were given our equipment which was a helmet, a kind of a semi-flack vest chest-type piece of equipment and we then went... we were told to go in and escort inmates out of the modular units and get them into the yard area.



Francis “Chip” Rice is second from the left, wearing the maroon shirt. He and his other officer coworkers are standing just outside one of the entrances to the main inmate dining hall, which was located in Group 2 and 3. They are facing E Gate.

**McNaughton:** Were you taking them to the main yard area or to the yard area back behind Group 1?

**Rice:** Our responsibility at the time of clearing the mod units was just to clear the mod units and secure them... make sure there was nobody inside or hiding or anything. The inmates... whoever directed them after they went out of the housing unit, I don't know. I was in the unit. When we came out they were away.

**McNaughton:** And so, as you were moving those inmates, what were they saying to you? Did they know what was going on? Did they want to be involved, not want to be involved?

**Rice:** I didn't have any real direct contact one-on-one with... a lot of the inmates were grabbing commissary items ... food, things like that... an extra shirt... sweatshirt. I think they knew they were going to be out in the... things were going to be disrupted for quite a while.

**McNaughton:** They knew they were going to be in it for the long haul.

**Rice:** Yes.

**McNaughton:** What time do you think that was?

**Rice:** It was still light out... it was the end of October, so I would estimate it was probably about 4:30 or 5 [p.m.]

**McNaughton:** Once you cleared the mod units, what happened after that?

**Rice:** We were stationed along where E Gate was. We had Groups 2 and 3 secured off where they couldn't get out of that area; however, we had no control of what was going on inside Groups 2 and 3. It was pretty much a gauntlet or skirmish line that was set up, and we were... there was also local and state police there...

**McNaughton:** Inside the prison with you?

**Rice:** ... inside the facility. Yes. As a matter of fact, I was talking with a Swatara Twp. Officer who is a friend of mine ... the inmates were sailing things... they were throwing things over ... rocks, pieces of pipe... whatever they could get their hands on. We had to dodge those while we stood there... while they decided what they were going to do.

**McNaughton:** With the minimal amount of protective equipment...

**Rice:** Correct.

**McNaughton:** I talked to Dave Rudon. He was one who talked about sawblades being thrown and rocks and...

**Rice:** Pipes...

**McNaughton:** ... and the sawblade actually embedded into the side of a fire truck that was inside?

**Rice:** That could have been possible.

**McNaughton:** How long did you stand there?

**Rice:** We were there for quite a long time. It became dark.

**McNaughton:** ... and things were burning... but more in the Group 2 and 3 section?

**Rice:** Yes.

**McNaughton:** It ended probably around 11... 11:30-ish?

**Rice:** I would say around 11... 11:30... we had the inmates back into their housing units. At that time, you could have had an inmate from F Block over in K Block. We just... we just got everyone in, got the cell secured... or what we thought was secured... and we found out later on that they weren't. Just basically, the inmates did return to their cells for the night.

**McNaughton:** Tell me what the cells looked like... the cell blocks... the cells. Weren't the walls actually punched through and things weren't working?



**Rice:** I believe that was the second night. The first night we did notice that ... there was a lot of trash throughout the area. The inmates' cells themselves were pretty much untouched. We would walk by as we tried to secure doors, and we would see inmates laying in their bunks with... you know... a bag of chips watching the riot on the local news.

**McNaughton:** Interesting.

**Rice:** The inmates knew. They followed the media. So, when the media said, “Here comes the National Guard or whatever,” the inmates all of a sudden were screaming, “Hey, they’re bringing in the...”

**McNaughton:** I do remember hearing that when I was working in the Press Office and our press secretary had to call one of the local TV stations to tell them to stop showing the map of the institution... stop showing our tactical plans.

**Rice:** ... stop showing the helicopters...

**McNaughton:** Well, they could see the helicopters anyway. So, you went home?

**Rice:** I went home the next morning at approximately... about 6 o’clock in the morning we were released. I went down... as I was headed home, right on Cedar Cliff Drive there... that gas station. I stopped. I found a pay phone, because we didn’t have cell phones. I called my wife.

During the first night [of the riot], as we were at the skirmish line, we also escorted injuries [injured people] in and out. I was out in the triage area. There was no way for us to notify... for staff to let their families know, “Hey, we’re safe. We’re ok.” I... my wife was an ER nurse at Holy Spirit [Hospital]. I ran fire and ambulance, so when I went out to the triage area, I saw a lot of people I knew from ambulance or fire. What I did was... I grabbed like a gauze wrapper and I wrote my name, my phone number and the time [on it] and then I would give it to someone and say, “When you get to the hospital, call Michelle. Tell her you saw me, and this is the time you saw me.” Then, every once in a while, as we would transport out to triage or bring somebody back in... as I’d go out, I’d find someone else I knew; and so, she knew from about 11:30... I think she got a call then at 1:30... 3:30... and then at 6 o’clock in the morning I called her and told her I was coming home.

**McNaughton:** Wow. Very smart. I do have a question back to when you guys were all standing in line protecting Group 1 from the rest of the institution. One of the other individuals I interviewed – Tabb Bickell – he was a hostage that first night. He said he remembered being taken to E Gate to be released. They were turning over the hostages. He said for a while there it was like the inmates were holding on to him, but staff was trying to pull him. He said it was kind of like a tug of war for a minute. Do you remember seeing that? Do you remember the hostages being taken back?

**Rice:** No. I was... I do recall earlier in the evening, I took Capt. Keith... he received a pretty severe head injury... I don’t know what the object was, but I remember taking him back. I was not at that line when the exchange was done. I think they had us over in Group 1... we had some inmates get crazy... get stupid out in the yard, because some of them were out in the yard. To get them secured they sent us over along with the state police and local K9 units to get everyone back into the housing units and get them secured also, so while the exchange was going on, I was over in Group 1.

**McNaughton:** Then, other accounts that I’ve read and that I’ve heard is that, in order to get the inmates to stop what they were doing, they promised a meeting with the superintendent the next day.

**Rice:** That is correct.

**McNaughton:** Let's fast forward... you're at the Gulf Station at the Cedar Cliff area and you call your wife and now you're on your way home. So, you went home...

**Rice:** I got home before 7 o'clock. Took a shower. Was up for a bit and then fell asleep. Around 10 o'clock I did fall asleep...

**McNaughton:** And this is 10 a.m.

**Rice:** Yes. We were told when we left that morning to report to your next shift the next day at the regular time. I took a nap, and at about 2 ... 2:30 in the afternoon, I received a call from Jack Sellers who was a corrections officer who was off sick at the time due to an automobile accident. He became a counselor or something... Jack was an officer there. He called me and said, "Turn on your scanner." And I turned it on to the Cumberland County and Dauphin County and it was just blowing up all over... "All units report. State Correctional Institution Camp Hill Cumberland County. Go. Go. Go."

I got dressed and I started out the door, and my wife was upset, and I said, "Hey, look, if I was in there, I'd want someone coming for me." So, we went... went the same direction... same amount of state police cars... flying by the second time too. Got to the junction [roadblock] at Spangler's Mill Road and Lisburn Road... they had... at that point the roadblock was up for over 24 hours. I remember I turned the corner and it was the same trooper, and he looked and waived, and I said, "Here we go again." He said, "Yeah, what's going on?" and then... it was on!

**McNaughton:** And it was on even worse than before?

**Rice:** Yes.

**McNaughton:** Ok, tell me what you see now as you're pulling up to the institution.

**Rice:** Everything's on fire. Sirens. All kinds of inmates yelling, screaming... running through the yards and everything. It was just ... my initial observation was it was total chaos. It was total chaos.

**McNaughton:** Were you... did you meet up with other officers? Were there officers or lieutenants over you telling you what to do? What did you do? Did you just go inside the institution?

**Rice:** We were told the night before that if anything like this ever happened again, report to the rear gate. So, we all reported to the rear gate. We got assembled up, but again, we were just kind of...

**McNaughton:** How many of you were there?

**Rice:** It depended... at the time I pulled up... it was as we were coming in. So, I think there were several officers and then you would see other cars coming in also. As we went in the institution with our group, we'd look behind and here comes another group a half hour later. We had a lot

of people respond. The ones who were off work and everything, I know they came flying in as soon as they could.

**McNaughton:** I read that about 800 state troopers were on site. And then, also, we had the local police departments, as well, so everybody was reinforcing the perimeter...

**Rice:** Correct.

**McNaughton:** Plus, you were inside...

**Rice:** We were inside.

**McNaughton:** OK, so you went inside the second night when everything was totally lost.

**Rice:** Right. We went into the Group 1 and we tried to get ... we got into the key room... whatever keys that we still had hanging up there, we got out of there immediately. We tried to secure it. There were inmates running up and down the hallways in Group 1. It was kind of like... it was kind of like a dash-and-go so we could get what we needed, but at that time, the inmates had pretty much total control of everything.

**McNaughton:** [pointing to a diagram of the prison at that time] So, that was in this Group 1 area, and this is also where control was. I understand that there were people trapped up above control?

**Rice:** Yes. That was probably at the time that I was over here [he is pointing to outside of the rear gate] in the beginning is when that was going on. Then the sergeant at the main gate released the troopers in so they could rescue those people on the second floor.

**McNaughton:** So, had he not made that decision...

**Rice:** Yes. Had Sergeant Beck not made that decision, we would have had a situation worse. He was a hero... no doubt.

**McNaughton:** Then what happened? What was the rest of your night like?

**Rice:** The rest of the night... again, it was just kind of gauntlet... they would... we eventually got into areas that we could secure... like the.... The education building was pretty much on fire. So, we really couldn't do much there. The mods were burned down. New Values stayed. They protected... the New Value inmates did protect their area. So, that was not destroyed; however, they were intermixed with everyone at this point.

**McNaughton:** They also... in the New Values trailer, which was a drug treatment program... they actually protected some of the staff by dressing them in inmate uniforms.

**Rice:** Yes, and they got them to the main gate.

**McNaughton:** I understand that, when they were approaching the main gate, staff didn't know who was coming at them because they were in the uniform browns.

**Rice:** Right. They drew down on them. They were challenged.

**McNaughton:** How terrifying that must have been. Luckily, you knew who your staff members were and were able to get them out.

**Rice:** Yes, somebody was able to identify saying, “Hold off. Hold off. Let them come. Let them come.” And then they go to an area and basically just said, “Go!” and then they broke camp and we got back in.

**McNaughton:** Wow. How horrifying. Then what... the rest of the night... everything’s on fire?

**Rice:** Everything’s on fire. I do ... they formed us up in the parking lot right at the Central Office building... about 10 or 15 of us, and they were like, “Let’s get together so we know who’s where,” so... because I don’t understand what was going on in the command center and I don’t want to know what was going on...

**McNaughton:** You did what you were told to do...

**Rice:** It was just form up. So, we were there, and then later on is when the assault occurred. Because, then, when shots were fired, you could hear the bb’s hitting the fences along the line. So, we ducked down. Then they said, “Inside now.” So, we immediately came in [to the prison], assembled over here... and there’s a video somewhere of the helicopter making the announcement ... and you’ll see a gauntlet of state police and corrections [employees], and I was part of that group too.

**McNaughton:** That was one of my favorite scenes ever. That was just as the sun was rising. It was a little foggy...

**Rice:** Right. The shots were fired. The inmates had all run in [to the cell blocks]...

**McNaughton:** Scattered...

**Rice:** The whole compound was empty...

**McNaughton:** ...for the first time.

**Rice:** Then the gauntlet came in and that’s when they started... they crawled out on their hands and knees, and then we went in and swept ... pushed them all out into the yard.



**Inmates crawl out of the cell blocks and surrender.**

**McNaughton:** When you were pushing the people out into the yard, were the hostages that night then released, how did you find them?

**Rice:** Yes. The morning that we were on the gauntlet line, that's when I remember Harold Mauer was released. Joe Miller grabbed him. Talk to Joe.

**McNaughton:** I do have a picture of Joe Miller talking to a hostage with a blanket around him, and he was leaning against troopers. Although I think that might have been an officer taken out of K Block. State police or whoever were inside our institution taking pictures... this picture... all of the pictures, including that one hostage picture, which is out there for the whole world to see on the internet.

**Rice:** I never even knew that photo was taken. [He's looking at a picture of himself in riot gear.]

**McNaughton:** Yeah. Very interesting, so somebody from the state police was going around taking these pictures as stuff was going on. Amazing.

**Rice:** I know that several days afterward we had... there was some staff who brought in pocket instamatic disposable and took pictures too. I saw enough of the devastation, I don't need photos to remember, but I did... one thing I did though... I have two or three binders of newspaper clippings. I kept. At the end of the 12-hour shift months later, I was cutting out the article and that was my technique.

**McNaughton:** I did steal all of these pictures that I got off of YouTube. The guy said, when he posted them, that he wasn't involved. He said to share these pictures if you know the people that are in them, so I took them all. I'm going to include them in the final project. Very interesting. Let's talk about the fact that we didn't... we had CERT teams, but they weren't at all like they

are now. How did the riot improve our CERT equipment, CERT teams, specialized teams? Can you talk about that? Were you involved in the training of the new CERT teams at the academy?

**Rice:** I was involved with the CERT training – not to the degree such as Dave Rudon or Ron Griffith – I was newer to the academy. I was in the basic training classrooms about 85% of the time and then 15% was firearms or the tactical at that time. The reason... the reason why we got all that stuff is because all of a sudden the money was available for it.

**McNaughton:** Because we had a huge riot.

**Rice:** Because we had... you burn down 30 million dollars' worth of jail, and before it was like at that time... not even a million dollars to set up your teams and get them equipped, but... we always have time to do it right, but we don't have time to do it over, right? Yep. The opposite. It's actually the opposite.

**McNaughton:** When did you say you went to the academy... in April of 1990? So, you were there [at SCI Camp Hill] immediately thereafter for the rebuilding a little bit.

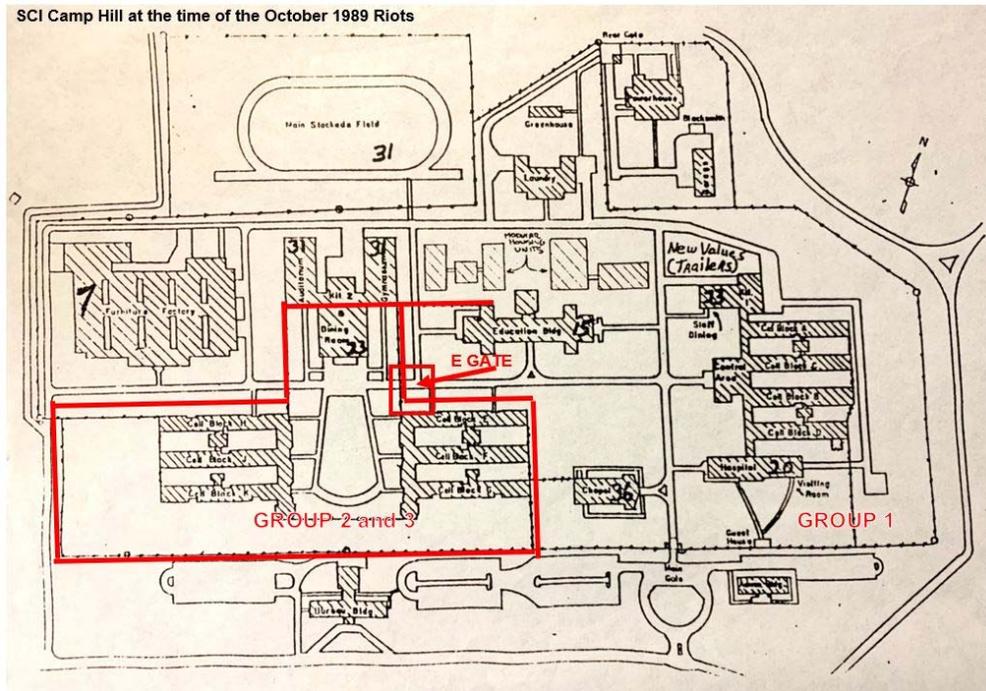
**Rice:** Actually, October 26, was my interview day with John Wertz.

**McNaughton:** John Wertz was the head of the Academy.

**Rice:** ... with Bill Sprenkle, John Wertz, Bill Ward, John Carver and everybody else. That was my interview. So, the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup>, I saw John Wertz as I was leaving, and I said, "I'm not going to be in for the interview today." He said, "Neither am I." So, it was rescheduled, of course, but I started in April 1990. The department had a mass hiring going on. Graterford, I think, filled up one or two basic training classes alone. It was just... Bill Sprenkle went to headquarters and said, "If you want me to train double or triple the people, I need the staff." So, myself and Ron Griffith were assigned temporary duty at that time.

**McNaughton:** Can you talk a little bit about how the facility changed afterward?

**Rice:** It was a total change from what I saw before. I like how they've... it's been, more or less, compartments now, where you can secure... we had this issue of Group 2 and 3, and again E Gate... E Gate was a pivotal point. The inmates knew what they were doing. They knew that if they had this [pointing to E Gate on the facility map] they controlled all of this part of the jail. So, Now, with the way they divided it off, and of course with the new housing area and everything, I think it's going to be... God forbid there's another situation, but I think it will be quickly isolated so it doesn't spread out the way it did. When this kicked, we had how many hundreds of inmates coming in from the yard, and it was... it was... it was the time to make it happen.



A diagram of the prison at the time of the riot.

**McNaughton:** So, you had to get them in from the yard, into the area or back into the yard?

**Rice:** Yes, when we did Group 2 and 3 out here, they would come up through this way to E Gate, come over and then disperse into these six cell blocks.

**McNaughton:** So, this was... planned.

**Rice:** Oh, yeah. They knew it was going to happen. We had an idea it was going to happen, and we told our sergeants, who told our lieutenants, who told our captains, who told our major. It did go up the line. They knew it went up the line.

**McNaughton:** How far up the line?

**Rice:** How far up the line and what was... who made the decision at that time, I have no idea, but we knew something was happening because... one of the meals... one of the lunch meals was very, very popular and it usually took forever to feed lunchtime when they had hamburgers. It was a meal like a hamburger or something, but what happened was the inmates came in. They were quiet. They ate, and they got out of the chow hall.

**McNaughton:** Very unusual for that meal.

**Rice:** Very unusual for that type of a meal. Yeah. If it was liver and onions, we cleared the... we could feed 1,200 inmates in 30 minutes. When you have a popular meal and they come in and finish and there's no usual... we saw it. We knew it. We knew there was something wrong.

**McNaughton:** I had read, I think in the Adams Commission Report, that the institution... the administration must have known something was happening or planned for September, because they had talked about it at an August superintendents meeting. There was supposed to be some sort of yard demonstration involving the FOI (Fruit Of Islam) inmates. There must have been a track meet or something, and the weather was bad, so at the last minute the institution cancelled it. It [the riot] probably would have happened earlier.

**Rice:** We had beautiful weather from the 25<sup>th</sup> on. It was earlier in the week... you were right, I think they did have rain the weekend before or just before that. As far as the yard demonstration, I had never heard of that, but I knew that the inmates were not pretty happy, I guess with the cancellation, supposedly, of the Family Days. And then the rumor was they [the administration] were going to kill power at 9 o'clock at night, and we were telling the inmates, "That's BS."

**McNaughton:** When would they normally kill the power?

**Rice:** They don't kill power. You can watch TV all night. You had lights in your cell all of the time, but again, the rumors. The rumors started. There was no communication. We were in the dark as much as the inmates, except for the Family Day thing. Of course, the inmates took that out on us. They were mad at us about it. We didn't make the decision, but it's who they vent to. It was... and the overcrowding... it was just a combination... I think it was just a combination, and the catalyst was the nice weather, and instead of a demonstration, let's really show them what we mean.

**McNaughton:** Wow. What other things do you remember?

**Rice:** I remember that... I had been a fire fighter and EMT and I've seen a lot of sad things and I've seen a lot of destruction, but they did a number on that jail. They really did. It was... for what they were... they were able to get to items, which again, we've changed our policy since then to make things more secure.

**McNaughton:** Items such as...

**Rice:** Well, vehicles inside the prison.

**McNaughton:** Crazy.

**Rice:** We have vehicles inside the prison. No shadow boards for tools...

**McNaughton:** Some tools that just should have been inside.

**Rice:** ... inmates had access to the tools. They knew the locking mechanisms. That's how they defeated them, because the inmates went around with the maintenance crews to repair the locking systems. The inmates were familiar with it. They knew that if you took the covers off and grabbed those rods and pulled, every single door's going to fly right open and that's what started the second night.

**McNaughton:** All of the doors down the tier opened with one pull. Well, we've learned a lot. I hope we are never going to repeat that for sure. Wow. It's interesting... people need to understand that inmates are educated about things that are going on, not only in their own prison, but in other prisons and prisons across the nation.

**Rice:** When I spoke with a lot of friends and people who knew I worked in corrections after the riots and they said, "What do you mean they had a vehicle the rammed? What do you mean... How'd they get this?" I said, "What do you think you do as an inmate in state prison." "Well, I sit in my cell. I go eat and then I go back to my cell." It's like, "No. No. We don't do that." It's programs, it's education, it's movement. They are like, "You mean they are not locked in 24 hours?" and I said, "No, they are locked in about eight hours a day." People didn't know that.

**McNaughton:** And, of course, Camp Hill has 50-some acres inside the perimeter. So back then, having a vehicle inside might have made sense to drive things from one part to another, but when you watch a truck drive through a fence like a hot knife through butter... it's crazy.

**Rice:** Had he hit another area of the fence more toward the power plant, he would have cleared both fences. Where he hit... there is a cement abutment, and that's what stopped him. If he would have been another 50... 60 feet down, he would have blown through both fences.

**McNaughton:** Oh my. What a thought. Luck.

**Rice:** He didn't know that. It was luck. It was luck. He just... he got it... he came down through and he went in this direction [pointing on the map]. If he had just gone straight, he would have blown right through. He would have hit the railroad tracks.

**McNaughton:** Wow. Amazing. Anything else.

**Rice:** Oh, I'll Monday morning quarterback this forever. You know I will.

**McNaughton:** Tell me about... did you have any kind of debriefing or did you have nightmares? How did it impact you? As a fire fighter you might have been used to seeing some of the stuff.

**Rice:** yeah, but you don't... it's still difficult. I think there's a little PTSD as a result of it. Again, that could be through the riots, could be my career, could have been fire/EMS, could have been family. It's...

**McNaughton:** But immediate after... say a couple of months after. Were you having nightmares?

**Rice:** No. I wasn't having nightmares. Any time a low-flying helicopter came over... that kind of ruined my day.

**McNaughton:** At the prison, or anywhere?

**Rice:** Anywhere. So, if we were at a vehicle accident out on the interstate and Life Lion came in, it was like ... I got to be focused on something because I'm starting to get it. But... overall... I think I've come through it pretty well. The debriefing that was done by the department was an absolute joke. They brought in – if you interview Mark Grove, he might mention it to. He and I

were in a debriefing with several other people and they were making the attempt to debrief us. They asked us how we were feeling and how we were doing, and one of the things I said... I said because they asked about complaints, and I said, "The department had set up a hotline for inmates' families to contact, but they never had one for staff." And I told them about what I told you about how I was passing out [information to EMT friends to notify my wife]. One of the guys told the group, "Well, yes, family is very important, but don't you think the inmate families should have that right." Mark Grove and I just both start coming over the table at him, and our debrief was over. Our debrief was over. When he said, "What about the inmate families," it was like, "Wait a second."

**McNaughton:** I remember, immediately thereafter, just feeling an overall anger toward any inmate, no matter whether they were involved or not... just inmates in general.

**Rice:** Well, it was guilt by association. At that point, with the chaos that we had, we were able to identify a small number of inmates who had criminal charges filed against them. Unfortunately, for the inmates at that point it was guilt by association. You were in the mob, you are a mob. You might not be... If you were an inmate, you were not trusted. It was... you just got what you were allowed to get, and you got nothing else.

**McNaughton:** I remember, and from a fire fighter standpoint you'll probably remember this and can speak to it, but that C.I. (Correctional Industries" Building burned for days and days. Were they making furniture in there? What were they... what was on fire?



Fire crews continue to monitor the smoldering building that previously had been the Correctional Industries furniture factory and coffee plant. If you look behind the parked tractor trailer, you'll faintly see inmates in the main yard.

**Rice:** The whole factory... it was a furniture factory. They did make some furniture. They had a coffee plant. That was... when we saw that the roof collapsed in the coffee plant, we were pretty upset, because that's where the coffee's at. We had inmates in that block that worked, so we would... they had the coffee you'd get, but then you'd get the Penn State coffee, you'd get the House of Representatives coffee... I mean, we did well coffee-wise, but yeah. I know at the time, from a fire fighting aspect, I know there was concerns about some toxic chemicals, but it really never panned out that it was a danger to that particular area or to the area in general. There really wasn't any toxics.

**McNaughton:** Well, good 'cause we were all breathing it in. The greenhouse caught on fire, as well, and I remember people talking about...

**Rice:** The greenhouse. The only thing was when they did tear the old prison down was all the asbestos. There was a ton of asbestos in there and it was viable even before the riots. It was a dangerous, dangerous area. Again, nobody really knew that at the time.

**McNaughton:** The fire fighters... I have reached out to Lower Allen Township... we were done after a couple of days and just trying to regroup and rebuild, but they had to keep coming in to keep the smoldering fire from burning. I remember one fire guy called and got me on the phone, and was screaming at me because of all the chickens he's going to have to barbeque to replace his ladder truck. I think he just needed to vent.

**Rice:** Not only that, but the state did tell the volunteer fire companies and all the outside agencies that they would be compensated for their time. It was pennies on the dollar.

**McNaughton:** That's tough.

**Rice:** It is tough. Now we have it where we have agreements with our emergency plans and that. We didn't have that before. It was just like, "Call 911 if something goes bad." Now we have a more defined system.

**McNaughton:** ...and we have drills/exercises where we will bring them in... not the trucks... but at least the people to see where the different places are, so they are familiarized a little bit.

**Rice:** All of that is a result

**McNaughton:** Isn't that something? Anything else you'd like to say?

**Rice:** I don't think so. I thank you for the opportunity. And like I said, I'll Monday morning quarterback this forever.

**McNaughton:** I think a lot of us will.

END