

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

\* SCIC - 89-9  
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\* CONTACT:  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMP HILL - October 25, 1989

*5pm*

~~As you can see,~~ <sup>W</sup> we have an incident in progress at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill. We do not have a lot of information now; however, we can tell you that it began at approximately 3:00 p.m. this afternoon and is still in progress. At this point, because we are busy trying to assess the situation, we have no firm information that we feel comfortable to release at this time. We will be back with you as soon as we have more information, ~~and we will hold a regular briefing thereafter.~~

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OCT 25 '89 17:14 SCI CAMP HILL PA P01

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

\* SCIC - 89-11  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 25, 1989

GPM

At approximately 3:00 p.m. this afternoon a staff member was assaulted by an inmate at our E Gate House. The incident carried over to the Group II and III cell block area. There were two fires started - one at the E Gate House and the other at Commissary. A number of inmates are currently involved in the incident. A number of staff have been injured. I have no definite information on the extent of the injuries at this time. The Pennsylvania State Police, Local Police, Local Fire, and Ambulance crews are on the property and are assisting institutional personnel.

The number of inmates and the areas involved have not been confirmed at this time.

# # #

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 25, 1989 - 8:00 p.m.

There have been fires confirmed in the following areas: Furniture Factory, Food Services II, and Commissary. They are being brought under control.

At the present time the group I cell blocks - A, B, C, and D, as well as Modular Units, 1 through 8, have been secured.

Inmates are being held in the Group I and Main Stockade field at this time.

At this point we can confirm nine staff injuries and four inmate injuries.

Eight hostages have been released and are being checked by medical staff.

A number of inmates are returning to the cell blocks in Group II and III.

We are in the process of checking each building.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 25, 1989 - 10:00 p.m.

All cell blocks in the institution have been secured at this time!

I would like to emphasize that at no point during the incident was the community in any danger.

We are in the process of completing the searches of interior buildings. The inmates who were on the stockade fields are being moved back into their housing units.

There have been thirty-five confirmed staff injuries, one firefighter injury, and one State Police Officer. In addition, there have been five confirmed inmate injuries. We still cannot confirm the extent of the injuries to these individuals.

I would like to recap the events from 3:00 p.m. to the present time. The institution perimeter has been secured by Local and State Police, as well institutional staff since the start of the incident.

The incident began when a staff member was assaulted by an inmate at the E Gate House. The incident spilled over into the Group II and III cell block area. There were fires started in the Furniture Factory, Food Services II, E Gate House, and Commissary.

continued

-2-

The fires in the Commissary, Food Services II, and E Gate have been extinguished. Fireman are still working on the Furniture Factory fire.

We are currently making plans for necessary follow-up procedures such as medical checks on all staff and inmates, feeding, and will initiate a detailed assessment of the situation.

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAMP HILL - October 26, 1989 - 10:00 a.m.

The institution is in a lock down at this time. All routine functions such as meals and prescribed medications are being brought to the inmates' cells. There is no inmate programming being conducted or inmate visits. We are urging individual family members seeking information to telephone the institution at 717-737-4531 rather than go to the institution.

A contingent of Pennsylvania State Police are present at the institution. A number of State Police investigators are assisting institution staff in the investigation of the incident.

We have confirmed injuries to thirty-five staff members and nine inmates.

The condition of our injured staff members admitted to outside hospitals is reported by hospital officials at 6:00 a.m. as follows:

Observation - one  
Fair - six  
Stable - one  
Intensive Care - one

The condition of inmates admitted to outside hospitals is reported by hospital officials at 6:00 a.m. as follows:

Fair - two

(continued)

A State of Emergency has been declared by Commissioner David S. Owens, Jr. We are in the process of assessing the damage in all areas of the institution as part of our ongoing investigation.

Superintendent Robert M. Freeman will be meeting with five inmate representatives later today. There were no agreements made with the inmates other than to meet with the inmate representatives to discuss their concerns.

The institution was secured by approximately 10:00 p.m.. We are in the process of making sure all inmates are in their proper location. There is no indication that any inmate reached the perimeter fence. The process of identifying inmates will take further time.

The recap of events of October 25, 1989, are: A staff member was assaulted at approximately 3:00 p.m. at our E Gate House. The incident carried over to Group II and III cell block area. There were fires started in the Commissary, Furniture Factory, Food Services II and E Gate House.

Our first course of action was to reinforce the perimeter of the institution with Local and State Police, as well as institutional staff to ensure the safety of the local community.

Fires in the Commissary, Furniture Factory, Food Services II, and E Gate House were extinguished by local fire companies. Inmates began returning to their housing units at approximately 8:30 p.m. after Superintendent Robert M. Freeman agreed to meet with inmate representative.

There was a flare up of the fire in the Commissary at approximately 5:45 a.m. It was extinguished by Lower Allen Township Fire Company within an hour.

A wrap up briefing will be conducted at 3:30 p.m. at the institution's media briefing area.

CAMP HILL 9:10 p.m. -- At approximately 7 p.m., while feeding E and F cell blocks, inmates began throwing items out on the tiers and were able to gain access into the common areas from the cell block. Fires were subsequently started in the modular units 1 through 4, the education building, and E, F and H Blocks.

Shots were fired by Pennsylvania State Police to keep inmates away from perimeter areas. We can confirm at this time there have been no breaches of the perimeter. Police and security personnel are positioned outside of the fence line to ensure the safety of the local community.

We have five reported hostages in the Group II and III areas.

There have been numerous injuries, with many of the injured being transported to local hospitals. We are unable to confirm any numbers.

State and local police, and fire and ambulance crews are now on the scene assisting corrections staff. All off-duty staff are being asked to report to the institution.

# # #

*Sent  
9:35pm  
Sue 10/21/89*

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 26, 1989 - 10:50 p.m.

At the present time we are reviewing with the Pennsylvania State Police on a plan of action to regain control of the portion of the institution held by the inmates. Inmates from all cell blocks have gained access outside their housing areas. Additional correctional officers from other state institutions are being sent to Camp Hill.

There has been some contact from inmates with the Hostage Negotiation Team and efforts are being made to establish further communications with them.

We now have reports of eight hostages in the Group II and III cell block areas.

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OCT 27

'89 01:00 SCI

CAMP HILL PA

P01

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 27, 1989 - 12:45 a.m.

I can confirm at this time that Group I, cell blocks A, B, C, and D have been placed under control. We have requested National Guard field kitchen equipment and it is on the way. The equipment will be run by correctional staff at the institution. The National Guard helicopter will arrive within the hour to relieve the State Police helicopter for refueling and remanning. We have not requested any National Guard Personnel.

I would like to remphasize, once again, that the perimeter of the institution is secure. There have been no inmates who breached the outside perimeter fence.

The Pennsylvania State Police are stragetically located outside the perimeter and are heavily armed.

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Sent 1:28  
10-21

John A. Palakovich  
10-27-89

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

\* SCIC - 89-4  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 27, 1989 - 3:00 a.m.

At this point the situation appears to have stabilized, meaning that the status of the institution remains unchanged since our last briefing.

We would like to update you on the number of injuries. We have confirmed a total of 37 injuries with 16 persons transported to local hospitals. Among the most recently injured was a correctional officer, one State Police Officer and three firefighters. We have no reports of deaths.

We would again stress that assistance from the National Guard has been provided in the form of a helicopter to allow the State Police to refuel and remain their chopper. National Guard will also be bringing in a Field Kitchen for use by corrections staff. We have not requested National Guard troops to contain the situation.

Again, we would like to recap that Pennsylvania State Police have secured the entire Group I area. We are continuing to work with the State Police to develop a plan to restore order. We are continuing communications with the inmates.

We would also like to restate that the institution's perimeter has not been breached and corrections and law enforcement staff continue to circle the perimeter.

The next briefing will be at 6:00 a.m. At this time I will take a limited amount of questions.

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OCT 27 '89 07:45 SCI

CAMP HILL PA

P01

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

\* SCIC - 89-6

\* CONTACT:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 27, 1989 - 8:00 a.m.

There has been a change in the situation since our last briefing.

Pennsylvania State Police have taken the main kitchen building. In the process, shots were fired and tear gas was used. As a result we now have regained half of the area taken by the inmates.

State Police were able to rescue a corrections officer out of E Block at approximately 7:00 a.m. He is being taken to a hospital. His condition is unknown at this time. We are in the process of notifying his family.

The inmates with whom we are negotiating claim now that they have only two additional hostages. As previously reported, a fourth hostage was released by the inmates shortly after midnight.

To update our injury totals, we now have 44 injured, 25 transported to local hospitals.

Negotiations are continuing.

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CAMP HILL 9:27a.m. 10-27-89

We are now in control of the entire institution. Inmates from Group II and Group III have surrendered and are being moved to the rear of the institution in a field. Two staff members have been freed from those cell blocks. State police and corrections staff are now going building to building to conduct searches as precautionary measures.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill

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\* Press Secretary  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Camp Hill - October 27, 1989

This incident, which began shortly after 7 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 26, has been resolved with the surrender of the inmates in Groups II and III and the release shortly after 9 this morning of two staff hostages. Another staff hostage, whose presence in a cell block was not revealed by the inmates, was also found and released.

The employees are being examined by medical personnel. They do not appear to have sustained any life threatening injuries. There were no deaths. Cumberland County Medical Personnel report 60 injured, 37 of whom were taken to local hospitals.

State Police and Corrections personnel are conducting a building by building sweep, looking for inmates and staff.

Inmates are being held in two large recreation fields and four cell blocks in Group I. National Guard field kitchens are in place and will be used by institution staff to prepare meals.

An evaluation of the extent of damage will resume shortly. Administrative and criminal investigations are already in progress.

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NEWS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 603, Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CONTACT: Kenneth G. Robinson  
(717) 975-4862

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 27, 1989 4:00 p.m.

SOME SCI CAMP HILL INMATES TO GO TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS

CAMP HILL (Oct. 27) -- We are now in the process of dispatching buses to carry some of the inmate population of the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Camp Hill to other existing state correctional institutions.

These buses will each be guarded by corrections officers on board and surrounded by Pennsylvania State Police cars. The institutions taking inmates are:

- SCI Pittsburgh, Allegheny County
- SCI Smithfield, Huntingdon County
- SCI Graterford, Montgomery County
- SCI Waymart, Wayne County
- State Regional Correctional Facility at Mercer

Each is well prepared to accept these inmates. For security reasons, however, we will not be announcing the exact numbers going to each institution until they have already arrived and been secured at their destinations.

# # #

NEWS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 603, Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CONTACT: Kenneth G. Robinson  
(717) 975-4862

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 28, 1989 2:30 p.m.

STATUS UPDATE, SCI CAMP HILL

CAMP HILL (Oct. 28) -- The following is an update on the situation at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Camp Hill.

During the night, 50<sup>v</sup> inmates were bused under heavy security escort to four other SCIs as follows:

-- SCI Pittsburgh, 287 inmates arrived at 1 a.m. and are being housed in the institution's North Block.

-- SCI Graterford, Montgomery County, 38 inmates arrived at 5 a.m. and are being housed in a restricted housing unit.

-- SCI Smithfield, Huntingdon County, 65 inmates arrived at 10 p.m. and are being housed in available cells throughout the facility.

-- State Regional Correctional Facility at Mercer, 116 inmates arrived at 3:30 a.m. and are being housed in the assessment unit and in a commons building.

Preparations are being made to send additional inmates with State Police and corrections officer escort to SCI Waymart, Wayne County. The exact number will not be disclosed until they have arrived and are secured.

Initial damage assessments indicate that Cell Blocks A, B and D are useable and, in fact, housed inmates during the night. Also in useable condition are the infirmary and modular housing units 7 and 8. The chapel and power house were not damaged.

Damaged and currently being repaired were cell blocks C, E, F, G, H, J and K, the control center, laundry and kitchen 1.

The education building and kitchen 2/auditorium/gymnasium complex were heavily damaged. Destroyed were the Correctional Industries complex, modular units 1-6 and the green house.

The final injury count was 76 total injuries, 34 to staff, 32 to inmates, 10 to others, including fire fighters and State Police personnel. Forty-six were taken to area hospitals. As of noon today, three staff remained hospitalized, two in fair condition, one in satisfactory condition. Four of the five staff hostages have been discharged, one remains in fair condition. Six inmates remain in hospitals, one in fair condition, the rest are listed as satisfactory.

Today staff are completing the process of identifying and transporting inmates to SCI Waymart. We are also attempting to get the hundreds of inmates who spent the night in two exercise yards with blankets into cells in the damaged cell blocks. The cells are being thoroughly searched and locking mechanisms checked. Afterward inmates will be placed in the cells, which will be locked and chained. Priority for cell housing is being given to inmates with medical problems and to older inmates.

We are bringing in maintenance staff from several other institutions to assist in the repairs.

Inmates' medical needs are being attended to. Doctors have been in the yards to monitor. Prescribed medications are being delivered to inmates.

Meals are being fed on a two-meal-a-day schedule, utilizing National Guard field kitchens.

Families of inmates who were transferred to other institutions are being told that inmates at receiving institutions will be permitted to call home at some point after they are secured.

Staff are working on 12-hour shifts. They have responded in exceptional fashion to this emergency. State Police and local police remain on site and will be available until no longer needed to ensure that the perimeter is secured.

# # #

NEWS RELEASE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
Commonwealth News Bureau  
Room 603, Capitol  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

CONTACT: Kenneth G. Robinson  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 29, 1989 11:00 a.m.

STATUS UPDATE, SCI CAMP HILL

CAMP HILL (Oct. 29) -- The following is an update on the situation at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Camp Hill.

Last night, 238 inmates were bused under heavy security to the SCI Waymart in Wayne County. They arrived at 12:50 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, and were placed in cells supervised by experienced corrections officers from several other state prisons in northeastern Pennsylvania. This brings the total transferred to other SCIs to 744.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons has agreed to accept inmates into federal prisons on a temporary basis. In the next several days, approximately 200 will go to the new federal facility in Bradford, McKean County. Also, 50 inmates will be transferred into the federal prison system each day, up to a maximum of 600 inmates, through the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in Union County.

During the night, we were able to prepare E Block to receive inmates, and by 11 a.m., approximately 280 had been moved into cells and locked in. Already in use since Friday night were blocks A, B and D, as well as the infirmary. Including the

inmates in E Block, the total locked in cell housing at 11 a.m. was approximately 680. That number will continue to rise during the day.

Maintenance and other staff from SCI Camp Hill and other state correctional facilities are continuing to work on K and F Blocks to prepare them to take inmates as well. Afterward, the remaining cell blocks in Groups II and III (G, J and H) will be prepared to house inmates. Cell Block C was heavily damaged, and it will be some time before it is useable.

As of 11 a.m., four staff remained hospitalized, two in fair condition, one in satisfactory and one in good condition. Four of the five staff hostages from Thursday's disturbance have been discharged, one remains in fair condition. Six inmates remain in hospitals, one in stable condition, three in satisfactory condition, one listed as fair and one reported in good condition.

Inmates' medical needs continue to be addressed, both in the cell blocks and in the yards, where hundreds of inmates spent a second night with blankets.

Meals continue to be provided on a two-meal-a-day schedule, utilizing National Guard field kitchens.

Families of inmates who were transferred to other institutions are being told that inmates at receiving institutions will be permitted to call home at some point after they are secured.

Staff are working on 12-hour shifts. They have responded in exceptional fashion to this emergency. State Police and local police remain on site and will be available until no longer needed to ensure that the perimeter is secured.

# # #

**N E W S   R E L E A S E**

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Department of Corrections  
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Harrisburg, PA 17120**

**CONTACT: Kenneth G. Robinson  
(717) 975-4862**

Oct. 30, 1989, 11 a.m.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STATUS UPDATE, SCI CAMP HILL**

CAMP HILL (Oct. 30) -- The following is an update on the situation at the State Correctional Institution (SCI) at Camp Hill:

State Police and institution security personnel continue to conduct sweeps of all utility passageways and buildings inside the institution. Areas that are not going to be placed into use immediately have been closed off and secured.

Two buildings have not yet been swept. In addition, we have not yet completed a thorough search of the burned-out modular housing units. As of late last night, our inmate population count was off by five. However, the sweeps will continue until the count is reconciled.

There continue to be no reported breaches of the perimeter security fence, which remains under heavy security. Inmates in the two yard areas are being closely supervised by police and corrections personnel.

During Sunday and overnight, we were able to complete moving inmates into E Block, and 551 spent the night in cells on that block. At approximately 11 p.m., we began moving inmates into K

Block, and approximately 390 inmates have been moved and locked into those cells. Already in use since Friday night were blocks A, B and D, as well as the infirmary. Including the inmates in E and K Blocks, the total locked in cell housing now is some 1,340. That number will continue to rise during the day.

Maintenance and other staff from SCI Camp Hill and other state correctional facilities are continuing to work on F Block to prepare it to take inmates as well. Afterward, the remaining cell blocks in Groups II and III (G, J and H) will be prepared to house inmates. Cell Block C was heavily damaged, and it will be some time before it is useable.

A total of 744 inmates were transferred to five other state correctional institutions on Friday and Saturday nights. The receiving institutions and numbers of inmates received are SCI Graterford, 38; SCI Pittsburgh, 287; SCI Smithfield, 65; State Regional Correctional Facility at Mercer, 116; and SCI Waymart, 238.

Under an agreement with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, approximately 800 state inmates will be transferred on a temporary basis into federal institutions during the next several weeks. Approximately 200 will go to a new federal facility in Bradford, McKean County. An additional 50 inmates per day, up to a maximum of 600, will be moved into the federal system through the Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary in Union County. These transfers will begin in the next two days.

As of 7 a.m., four staff injured in the two disturbances remained hospitalized, two in fair condition, one in satisfactory

and one in good condition. The only staff hostage from Thursday's incident remaining in the hospital is listed as being in fair condition. Six inmates injured during the disturbances remain in hospitals, one in stable condition, three in satisfactory condition, one listed as fair and one reported in good condition.

We are continuing to make progress with the cleanup of vital institutional services. The food services I facilities were reopened for use by staff and police personnel this morning.

Last night fires briefly flared up in one of the modular units and in the gymnasium. Lower Allen fire personnel were here filling water containers and were able to quickly extinguish both fires.

Inmates' medical needs continue to be addressed, both in the cell blocks and in the yards, where hundreds of inmates spent a third night with blankets. Meals continue to be provided on a two-meal-a-day schedule, utilizing National Guard field kitchens.

Staff continue to work on 12-hour shifts. State Police and local police remain on site and will be available until no longer needed to ensure that the perimeter is secured.

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