

Entry 15

So, let me tell you about the riot that broke out in my unit between one of the largest gangs in the prison and the guards...

I was sitting up in my cell with three of my buddies playing cards while we waited for the dinner movement to be called. As we were playing cards, I noticed that the unit got dead silent so I asked my buddy closest to the cell door to step out on the tier and see if they called chow? As soon as he stepped out on the tier he said "It's getting ready to go down on the flats"... so we all went out on the tier to see what was going on? As soon as I got on the tier and looked down I saw that there was a line of guards having a standoff with a wall of inmates,... And in the blink of an eye, they began fighting each other. At this point the guards weren't in their riot gear, they were simply CO's who had responded to the call for help. As I sat there watching what was going on I noticed that the inmates were swapping out tired people for fresh people and due to that they were wearing the CO's out as they didn't have any backup yet,... I say "yet" as they were at the armory suiting up in their ninja turtle gear and getting all of their riot weapons. As I sat there watching I saw a guy come out of the showers on the second tier and look down to see what was going on and then he ran to his cell, got dressed, jumped off the second tier and grabbed a chair and ran up behind the guards and started beating them from behind with the chair. That is what broke the line of guards up and from then on it was pure chaos!!!

As the guards and inmates scattered and began fighting all over the flats I watched as the first ninja turtles showed up with their bean bag guns, rubber bullet guns and other riot gear. I noticed that one of the chaplains had showed up and was trying to talk some reason to the inmates who were fighting and while he was doing that one of the guards accidentally shot him with a bean bag gun and knocked him out. A couple of the guards saw the chaplain go down and they grabbed him and pulled him from the unit. When the riot was over with they attempted to spread a rumor that the inmates in the gang knocked the chaplain out as they hoped to trigger a huge riot between two of the biggest cars in the prison, but luckily they kept their cool and did an investigation and found out the truth before acting. If they hadn't found out the truth and simply acted it could have turned into a very serious blood bath!!!

I honestly don't know how long the first wave of fighting went on as everything seemed to be going in slow motion,... but the ninja turtles were losing badly so they retreated out of the unit to regroup, but when they did they left four staff behind in the unit.

After the ninja turtles left the unit I looked down and watched as a group of inmates surrounded one of the staff and hit him in the head with a plastic chair so hard that it actually shattered the plastic chair. The staff member dropped and as he lay there on the floor being beaten he made eye contact with me for a split second and even from the third tier you could see the fear in his eyes as he thought he was going to die right then and there, he had blood squirting from his head up the wall about every second or two. What saved him is the fact that the shot caller for the gang that was rioting with the guard's came over and stopped his people from beating the staff member, he then helped him up and walked him to the front door of the unit and allowed the ninja turtles to open the door and get him out without any fighting. If it hadn't been for that I'm sure he would have been killed right then and there.

While this was going on there were three other guards who were pinned in the far corner of the unit being beaten by inmates. But after the shot caller helped the one staff member out of the unit he yelled something that quickly stopped all the fighting. I watched as two of the guards tried helping the third to get up and walk towards the front of the unit to get out. As they reached the middle of the unit I watched the shot caller grab the guard who was being helped by the shirt and said something to him,... (I later heard that he made the guard apologize for what he had caused before he would allow him to leave), after that he allowed them to leave the unit.

Once all of the staff were gone from the unit they began knocking over the sandwich machine, candy machine, soda machine and coffee machine and pushed them all towards the front of the unit to create a barricade. Shortly after that the tear gas and CS gas started being shot into the unit and the ninja turtles came rushing back in with a ton of backup!!! The fighting began again and then all of a sudden the flash bang grenades and concussion grenades starting going off. There were fights between inmates and guards all over the unit!!! By this time I was in my cell and watching from my doorway as the fighting was moving up the tiers. There was a guy who weighed 425 pounds who lived on the tier across from me,... as the ninja turtles came around the corner one of the inmates who had been fighting ran into his cell so the ninja turtles shot a tear gas canister into the cell. I watched as the smoke poured from the cell, then they threw a concussion grenade into the cell but what happened next surprised everyone!!! A split second later the concussion grenade came flying back out and blew up down by the flats. I guess they hit the guy who lived there in the chest with the grenade and he caught it and threw it out of the cell from reflex.

I can't remember how long the fighting lasted??? I know it seemed like forever!!! I was in my cell and I felt like I was dying from all the gas,... I could barely breath and my skin was on fire,...

Once they got the unit under control and got everyone locked in their cells they began rounding up everyone who was involved and after that they began moving everyone else to an empty unit in the prison. Due to all the gas that had been used in the unit they had to move us all out while they aired the unit out and got things cleaned up. I think it took

two or three days before we were finally allowed to go back to our unit???

Remember I had told you in a previous entry that the CO's will not tolerate white lightning???. This whole riot was triggered by people being drunk on white lightning,... The gang involved had just shined off a big batch of white lightning and the guard caught one of the youngsters from the gang drunk and told him to give a breathalyzer,... when the shot caller saw what was going on he ordered to youngster not to give the breathalyzer and that lead to the riot that happened. I guess the shot caller yelled something out and people from his gang climbed down the tiers and all grouped up on the flats and that's when the CO called for backup. In prison it doesn't take much to set off something major,.....