

# CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL SUPERVISORS ORGANIZATION

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*“Supervisors Representing Supervisors”*

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## WEEKLY UPDATE FOR OCTOBER 31, 2008

**Governor’s Briefing:** CCSO was invited to participate in an invitation only briefing call Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for a discussion on the state budget and the upcoming special legislative session with senior members of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s administration. Information from this briefing will be outlined in the next weekly update.

**ISP Staff Assaulted:** CDCR reported that at approximately 1836 hours on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, a disturbance occurred in the Facility "D" Dining Facility during the feeding of Housing Units D4 and D5. A correctional officer was verbally counseling a Hispanic inmate on the track outside the culinary. During the clothed body search, the inmate became combative with the officer. The Sergeant responded to the incident, at which time a second inmate began assaulting the Sergeant. At that point, multiple Hispanic inmates rose up from the tables inside the culinary and began attacking other correctional officers in the dining facility. It appears that weapons were not used, with the exception of food trays and plastic cups being used as projectiles. The incident quickly spread into the "A" side of the dining facility. Emergency responders (Code 3) utilized O. C. Pepper Spray and MEB's to gain control of the incident.

The Investigative Services Unit established a crime scene and began an investigation into this incident. As of October 27, 2008, the institution remained on lockdown due to the Battery on Staff. Twenty inmates have been placed in AdSeg at CVSP for their involvement in this incident.

According to the CCSO ISP Chapter President Lt. Michael Alonzo a total of 11 staff were injured: Sgt. William Fletcher and Sgt. Eric Olive and nine officers. The main incident occurred as cited above, but an earlier incident in the morning that same day occurred in the family visiting unit. CCSO will follow-up on the investigations of these incidents. Our thoughts and well wishes are with everyone that was injured.

**DVI Chapter President Resigns:** DVI Chapter President Lt. Jeff Leonard resigned his position as Chapter President due to family commitments. He remains an active member and we thank him for his past service. Lt. Leonard has appointed Lt. Felipe Braga as the new DVI Chapter President. Lt. Braga had been the elected DVI Chapter Lt. Vice President and is very familiar with the responsibility of his new appointment. All of us at CCSO welcome aboard Lt. Felipe Braga.

**CCSO Met with SPB Law Judge:** SPB Chief Administrative Law Judge Paul Ramsey, and SPB Presiding Administrative Law Judge Alvin Gittisriboongul met on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> with President Tatum, Administrative Liaison Ford Canutt, and Chief Operations & Financial Officer Pat Le Sage over the SPB backlog that is negatively impacting some of our members. Judge Ramsey said he had been brought on board to improve the chaos that currently exists at the end of 2007. He acknowledged the backlog and hardship it has meant for affected personnel. He said his goal is to improve the SPB process by utilizing the following: pre-hearing settlements; regionalizing; updating an antiquated database; commencing with more video hearings; and denying the countless continuances. It is SPB’s position that the cited improvements will expedite the process. Currently there are only 8 judges that need to hear over 3800 cases, which is a definite workload issue. Judge Ramsey cited that the Governor’s Executive Order had a definite negative impact on the positive momentum that was occurring and came to a halt. SPB is once again hiring annuitants and able to travel which will increase productivity once again.

CCSO pushed for prioritizing and moving terminations to the front of their caseload as it is taking years to have such cases appear in SPB causing a monetary plus mental and emotional hardship on the affected employee.

In conclusion, Judge Ramsey said he would get the SPB staff to pull supervisors dismissals and hear them by the early part of 2009.

CCSO thanks Judge Ramsey and Judge Gittisriboongul for their time and open-ended interaction.

**Election Ballot Mailed:** Look in your home mailboxes for the CCSO election ballot that will be mailed on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Take the time to read the candidate statements enclosed and then vote. Your vote is important in determining who will represent you on the State level for CCSO. The CCSO Lt. Vice President, Secretary, and two Board Member positions are up for election this year. Be an active CCSO member and vote in your candidate.

Also, vote on the national level for your presidential candidate. Now is not the time for complacency.

**California Fights Receiver:** The Schwarzenegger administration and a federal court receiver are heading toward a showdown over states' rights in an escalating fight over inmate health care. U.S. District Judge Thelton Henderson said he would proceed with a contempt-of-court hearing against the administration for not providing the money sought by the court-appointed receiver. He said it would raise significant constitutional issues about state sovereignty. The judge said the inmate medical system remains in crisis. "We cannot afford to have more delays," he said. Clark Kelso, the receiver in charge of California's prison medical system, wants \$8 billion to reform it and \$250 million immediately as a down payment. He is seeking the money to build seven medical and mental health care centers at the same time California faces a budget crisis. The state says the court cannot simply seize that money and must instead negotiate with lawmakers. "It's unprecedented in our nation's history where a court ... would try to take \$250 million from the state treasury," said Assistant Attorney General Daniel Powell.

"Our fundamental position is that it's the Legislature working with the court that must approve these prisons, period. The court can't act unilaterally," Powell said. Attorney General Jerry Brown, in a statement, accused Kelso of embarking "on a wildly expensive prison-construction program, kept secret from the public, without adequate oversight or input from the state."

James Brosnahan, the attorney representing Receiver Kelso, said preventable inmate deaths amount to unconstitutional cruel and unusual punishment that the court can order corrected regardless of the federal limitations. Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Lisa Page said the administration remains willing to work with the receiver. "He still must operate within the confines of applicable state and federal law. The people of California expect nothing less," she said.

**Thank You Lt. Chris Gold:** State Board Member Lt. Chris Gold represented CCSO on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at a memorial for Sgt. Jeff Ebner. The memorial was held in Sacramento where family and friends gathered to bid farewell to this young Sergeant who died last week. He was employed at SVSP. CCSO thanks Board Member Chris Gold for taking his personal time out to make contact with family and friends of Sgt. Ebner. Lt. Gold presented a eulogy and comforted the family.

***Take Care and Be Safe***



**Happy Halloween**

**Don't Let the Goblins Get You**