

I am writing on behalf of the forgotten men and women Law Enforcement Heros of your local communities that work one of the toughest beats in the nation; the Lompoc Federal Correctional Complex. First and foremost, we are not "Guards" but rather professional Correctional Officers and Staff who deserve to be recognized as Law Enforcement Officers right along with the Local Police Officers, Sheriffs, and Highway Patrol. You may think that when criminals are sentenced that they go to prison and that's the end, but it's us that are charged with keeping those criminals safe from each other in a secure environment, insuring the staff that work there are safe, and keeping your communities safe. On June 20, 2008, Officer Jose Rivera was stabbed and killed in the line of duty by two inmates at USP Atwater CA.. Officer Rivera was only 22 and a Navy combat veteran with two tours in Iraq to his credit. This incident hit the staff at FCC Lompoc harder than most other institutions because our own local native Officer Scott Williams was killed in the line of duty April 3, 1997 in which the inmate to this day, has never been brought to trial. There have been many serious staff assaults over the years in the federal system and it's been no secret that our institutions are over crowded with increasingly more dangerous criminals and with the budget cuts throughout government, less staff to deal with them effectively. Here at FCC Lompoc, it's been no different, we've had our share of inmate assaults/ fights, staff assaults, inmate suicides, and it's time that the local communities wake up and take notice. You have inmates that have done time in the Penitentiaries that are now in the minimum security camps that have no fences surrounding them. The chances of these inmates walking away, like one did a few months ago, are very real and then they are out and about in the community. There used to be notification to the media and signs posted on roads so that the public was aware and able to assist in re-apprehension, but that is not occurring. Your mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and community volunteers, are working inside the FCC Lompoc fences with almost 10% less staff than before where the ratio of staff to inmates now is 1 staff to 7 inmates, and on the off shifts it can be 1 staff to 100 inmates. The Staff have no personal protection such as stab proof vests, mace, tasers, pepper spray, or batons. Officers Jose Rivera and Scott Williams may have still been alive today if they had such protection. We need your help, Congress needs to know we need more funding for more staffing, our Warden and Administration need to know we need more personal protection as well as more staff, and since this prison is in your community, you should expect the Prison to notify you through the media as to what is going on inside the fences that may affect you or someone you know.

Barry Fredieu
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