

Have Pride... You Deserve It

By *Eddie Molina*

There is no doubt about it- Corrections has come a long way in the last 25 years. Long gone are the days where only those of you that are employed in a jail or a prison understand what goes on behind the walls. In the past, the general public simply considered a prison as ‘a place where all the bad guys go.’



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Today it is viewed much differently. There is far more media coverage within the walls than ever before. Camera crews are recording and

documenting everything that goes on in a prison and showing it off to the public. And the shows keep coming. The film industry has realized the public is curious, even fascinated by prison life. There are dozens of shows and documentaries that follow the lives of both the inmates and the Correctional staff.

Think about it.

How often are you asked, as a Correctional professional, about what happens inside? Many of you simply shrug it off as nothing serious and that it’s just a rewarding career with good pay and benefits. But what people really want to know about are the riots, fights, contraband and any other crazy things that occasionally happen on your shift.

As you get more time in as a Correctional professional you become immune and virtually blind to what happens behind the walls. What once seemed bizarre during your rookie year eventually becomes common place after several years on the job.

After a few years, situations like a fight or a stabbing repeat themselves and they lose the luster they once had early in your career. Some of you just write it off as just another day on the job. You become numb to what the general public considers bizarre, horrifying and/or shocking.

But this recent increased public awareness and media coverage has brought to light what it is we do every day. Our historical title of ‘jail guard’ has been replaced by ‘Correctional Officer’ and you must never forget that.

People now see you as much more than what you may realize. You have a duty and obligation to wear your uniform proudly with honor and distinction. When the general public sees you, they see someone that does a job they hope to never have to do.

So be proud and have pride. You do what a large percentage of the rest of the population would never want to do- and it takes a special person to do that. Stay safe!