

COURTESY AND RESPECT

By James W. Harkleroad

When you live in crowded conditions courtesy and respect become very important. For these are two "oils" that reduce friction.

And as anyone with common sense knows - friction causes heat and heat can lead to an explosion.

Sadly, courtesy and respect are in short supply within a prison system. The vast majority of prisoners have the view that courtesy and respect are owed to them.

But that they have no reason to give courtesy and respect to others

(Unless they are afraid of that other person.)

What do they base their reasoning upon?

The fact that they are able and/or willing to be violent. This ability and/or willingness makes them "superior", in some odd fashion, to those who are not able and/or willing to be violent.

Aided by the fact that they are rarely corrected. Giving them the false impression that they are invulnerable.

Rarely corrected because few want to experience the problems that arise when one tries to correct an unreasonable person.