

TABLE 14.2

Description of Prison Riots

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS
Kirkland Correctional Institution (Kirkland, South Carolina)	The Kirkland facility was generally well managed at the time of the disturbance of April 1, 1986, and so was the riot's resolution. The riot began in a housing unit holding the prison's most violent and disruptive inmates. Inmates seized control of this unit, scaled the fence around it, and then used construction tools left on the grounds to release 700 general-population inmates. The riot command post functioned smoothly, resolving the disturbance in six hours.
U.S. Penitentiary (Atlanta, Georgia)	On November 10, 1987, the U.S. State Department announced that Cuba had agreed to reinstate a 1984 accord that would permit the repatriation of up to 2,500 Cuban nationals. Included would be Cubans who had fled in the 1980 Mariel boatlift but who, once released on "immigration parole," had been convicted of a crime and were now detained in one of two federal prisons. Three days after the announcement, the detainees seized control of the U.S. Penitentiary in Atlanta (part of the Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Department of Justice). Their principal demand was that they not be repatriated to Cuba. The uprising lasted 11 days, involved more than 100 hostages, and required protracted negotiations to resolve.
Mack Alford Correctional Center (Mack Alford, Oklahoma)	The riot that occurred at this medium-security institution between May 13 and 15, 1988, was preceded by a six-hour period during which Black and White inmates milled about in crowds, expressing antagonism toward each other and toward authorities. Despite attempts to defuse the situation, a corrections official was taken hostage late in the evening, marking the start of the riot. Over a two-hour period, inmates seized seven more hostages and took over two-thirds of the prison. No substantive issues were raised during the three-day disturbance, which was eventually resolved through a combination of negotiation, exhaustion on the part of the inmates, and defection by inmates who no longer wanted to participate.
Arizona State Prison Complex—Cimarron Unit (Tucson)	This one-hour disturbance by inmates at the Cimarron Unit of the Arizona State Prison Complex at Tucson [on June 21, 1990] initially pitted inmates against inmates. It began as a fight over a cigarette lighter and escalated into a large, racially divided brawl. When prison administrators intervened, inmates turned on them, and force had to be used to end the disturbance.
Idaho State Correctional Institution (Boise)	The Idaho State Correctional Institution (ISCI) houses medium-custody inmates as well as close-custody inmates (those who are dangerous and difficult to manage), inmates in administrative segregation and detention, and those awaiting execution. On September 28, 1988, inmates in a close-custody housing unit refused to return to their cells after having been observed drinking a homemade alcoholic beverage. They then used an unsecured table to break into the unit's control center. The riot was eventually brought under control by an ultimatum and riot squad deployment.
Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution (Camp Hill)	Since 1975 Camp Hill had been an adult correctional facility, housing minimum- and medium-security inmates. On October 25, 1989, inmates returning from an exercise yard in the late afternoon overwhelmed correctional staff and seized eight hostages. The riot ended through negotiations, and inmates were confined to cells. The next day the superintendent met with the inmates to discuss their grievances. In a development unknown to him, many of the cells to which the inmates had been confined were not secure, permitting the start of a second riot later that same day. Five more hostages were taken. Negotiations were again attempted, but the riot finally ended when state police forcibly entered the compound.