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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CLARENCE LEONARD HEARNS,)	No. C 12-6407 LHK (PR)
)	
Plaintiff,)	ORDER OF PARTIAL
)	DISMISSAL; ORDER OF
v.)	SERVICE; DIRECTING
)	DEFENDANTS TO FILE
C. KEO, et al.,)	DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR
)	NOTICE REGARDING SUCH
Defendants.)	MOTION
)	

Plaintiff, proceeding *pro se*, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. For the reasons stated below, the Court partially dismisses the complaint, and orders service upon the named Defendants.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the Court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v.*

1 *Pacifica Police Dep't.*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

2 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:
3 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that
4 the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v.*
5 *Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

6 B. Legal Claims

7 In the complaint, Plaintiff states that on November 26, 2010, Inmate Houk, a documented
8 and known violent inmate, was out of his cell at 7:00 p.m. Plaintiff alleges that Inmate Houk
9 was forbidden to be out of his cell after 4:00 p.m. According to Plaintiff, Defendants J. Harget
10 and J. Swangler instructed Defendant C. Keo to let Inmate Houk out. About thirty minutes later,
11 Plaintiff saw Inmate Houk using the phone at a time when Plaintiff's cellmate was supposed to
12 be using the phone. Plaintiff asked Inmate Houk to hang up so that Plaintiff's cellmate could use
13 the phone. Inmate Houk jumped up and attacked Plaintiff. Correctional staff eventually had to
14 use pepper spray to gain control of the situation. As a result, Inmate Houk was sent to
15 administrative segregation and given a rules violation report for battery. Defendants J.
16 Swangler, John Doe, and J. Stevenson also charged Plaintiff with fighting with Inmate Houk,
17 and Plaintiff was found guilty.

18 Liberally construed, Plaintiff has stated a cognizable claim that Defendants J. Harget, J.
19 Swangler, and C. Keo were deliberately indifferent to his safety needs and failed to protect him,
20 in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

21 To the extent Plaintiff is attempting to argue that Defendants J. Swangler, John Doe, and
22 J. Stevenson filed false charges against him, he fails to state a claim. A prisoner has no
23 constitutionally guaranteed immunity from being falsely or wrongly accused of conduct which
24 may result in the deprivation of a protected liberty interest. *Sprouse v. Babcock*, 870 F.2d 450,
25 452 (8th Cir. 1989). As long as a prisoner is afforded procedural due process in the disciplinary
26 hearing, allegations of a fabricated charge fail to state a claim under § 1983. *Hanrahan v. Lane*,
27 747 F.2d 1137, 1140-41 (7th Cir. 1984). Plaintiff does not allege that he was not afforded due
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1 process. Nor does Plaintiff allege that the evidence was insufficient to sustain a guilty finding.
2 See Superintendent v. Hill, 472 U.S. 445, 454 (1985). Thus, this claim is DISMISSED.
3 Defendant J. Stevenson is also DISMISSED. If Plaintiff believes that he can, in good faith,
4 allege a cognizable claim, he may amend his complaint within thirty days to include such a
5 claim.

6 CONCLUSION

7 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of
8 Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy of the complaint
9 and all attachments thereto (docket no. 1), and a copy of this Order to **Correctional Officer C.**
10 **Keo, Correctional Officer J. Harget, and Correctional Officer J. Swangler at SVSP.**
11 Defendant J. Stevenson is DISMISSED.

12 The Clerk of the Court shall also mail a courtesy copy of the complaint and a copy of this
13 Order to the California Attorney General's Office. Additionally, the Clerk shall mail a copy of
14 this Order to Plaintiff.

15 2. Defendants are cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
16 requires them to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint.
17 Pursuant to Rule 4, if Defendants, after being notified of this action and asked by the Court, on
18 behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons, fail to do so, they will be required to bear
19 the cost of such service unless good cause be shown for their failure to sign and return the waiver
20 form. If service is waived, this action will proceed as if Defendants had been served on the date
21 that the waiver is filed, except that pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B), Defendants will not be required
22 to serve and file an answer before **sixty (60) days** from the date on which the request for waiver
23 was sent. (This allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of
24 summons is necessary.) Defendants are asked to read the statement set forth at the bottom of the
25 waiver form that more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to waiver of
26 service of the summons. If service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but before
27 Defendants have been personally served, the Answer shall be due **sixty (60) days** from the date
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1 on which the request for waiver was sent or **twenty (20) days** from the date the waiver form is
2 filed, whichever is later.

3 3. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this Order, Defendants shall file a
4 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the cognizable claims
5 in the complaint.

6 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiff
7 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),
8 Defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315
9 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003).

10 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual
11 documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil
12 Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor**
13 **qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendants are of the opinion**
14 **that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the Court**
15 **prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

16 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court and
17 served on Defendants no later than **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date Defendants' motion is
18 filed. Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and
19 *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must
20 come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every essential element of
21 his claim).

22 5. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fourteen (14) days** after
23 Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

24 6. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No
25 hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

26 7. All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on Defendants
27 or Defendants' counsel, by mailing a true copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants'

1 counsel.

2 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
3 No further Court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

4 9. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
5 and all parties informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a
6 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute
7 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 DATED: 4/3/13


LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge

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