

H A R L A N   R I C H A R D S

January 28, 2017

I'll Eat My Words

Last August, I reported that prison officials once again postponed the rollout of tablet computers for prisoners. I opined that they were intentionally sabotaging the plan to give prisoners access to email and that we would never get tablets.

Well, I was wrong. A few weeks ago, a crew came through Stanley prison and installed kiosks in all the housing units which will eventually be used for email, music downloads and ordering canteen. At this point, I don't see how they are going to be able to provide adequate access with only one kiosk for every 100 prisoners, especially if they give us access to the kiosks before allowing us to purchase tablets. Finding time for 100 prisoners to put in a canteen order once every two weeks will be a challenge. Generally, prisoners must wait until they are paid and receive account statements a day or two before the orders are due so they know how much money they have to spend. I can foresee guys hogging the kiosk and preventing others from getting their orders in on time.

But since I was wrong before, I'll have to keep an open mind and wait and see what develops. Who knows? Perhaps one day I'll be submitting my blogs via email.