



Media Release

April 15, 2014

Officers Injured During Assault at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Four Correctional Officers were injured and taken to Albany Medical Center for injuries after being assaulted by an inmate on April 4, 2014 at the maximum security facility.

An inmate was being transferred to another housing unit at the correctional facility, which is located 30 miles south of Albany, because he faced disciplinary action after becoming confrontational with a counselor at the facility.

At 1:55 pm, after exiting his cell, Jamel Garris dropped his property bags to the ground and immediately ran towards one of the officers. The officer ordered him to stop but he continued coming. The officer grabbed Garris in a body hold and took him to the ground. While on the ground Garris proceeded to punch the officer several times in the face and body. The officer was able to activate his personal alarm system and a response team, consisting of three officers, arrived.

Garris continued to be combative as the four officers attempted to restrain him. After a brief struggle the officers were able to get restraints on Garris and under control.

He was transferred to a Special Housing Unit at the facility.

The officers were taken to Albany Medical Center for treatment. The officer who was initially assaulted sustained a fractured nose, concussion, swollen jaw and a strained right wrist. The other three officers were treated for injuries to their hip, back, knee and elbow.

All of the officers were released from the hospital later that day.

Garris, 27, is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted for Robbery 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in 2010 in Queens County.

He was arrested in 2009 by New York City Police for robbing a pizza delivery person at gunpoint in Far Rockaway.

State Police were notified of the incident.

"This unprovoked attack, by an inmate already facing disciplinary action, on one of our members is another example of the type of serious assaults that are occurring to our members statewide. In this incident it took four officers to get control of the inmate. One officer sustained a fractured nose and concussion during the incident and that is unacceptable," stated, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Michael Mazzella.

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