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For Immediate Release

Three Officers Injured at Willard Drug Treatment Campus

Inmate Elbows, Fights With Officers

Willard, NY - Three officers sustained injuries at the Willard Drug Treatment Campus while trying to restrain an irate and unruly inmate on Wednesday, July 12, at 8:05 A.M.

While in the courtyard, an officer was attempting to counsel a 34 year old inmate. The inmate became hostile and began waving his hands and yelling at the officer. The officer ordered him to calm down but the inmate refused. He was given several more direct orders in an effort to de-escalate the situation.

The inmate was taken inside the facility where he continued to be unruly. The officer ordered the inmate to put his hands on the wall. Initially, he turned towards the wall, when he suddenly spun around and elbowed the officer in the chest.

The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold as additional staff responded. It took three officers to get the inmate to the ground as he continued to struggle. After a brief struggle, the officers were able to get the inmate in restraints. He was removed from the scene and transferred to a maximum security prison.

Two officers were transferred to Cayuga Medical Center for treatment of a rib contusion, sprained left shoulder and a contusion to the abdominal wall.

Both officers were treated and released and did not return to duty.

The third officer was treated at the facility for pain in the right hand. He remained on duty.

“The incident at Willard shows how quickly a situation can escalate and how dangerous it is for our members when they have to restrain an inmate who refuses to follow the rules of the facility. The officer did everything he could to quickly de-escalate the situation, but the inmate refused to comply with the orders given him ”, said Joe Miano, Vice President of NYSCOPBA’s Western Region.