



Drugs Seized at Willard Correctional Facility

Inmate Attacks Officer While on K2

For Immediate Release

January 23, 2020

Willard, NY – One officer was injured when he was attacked by an inmate who was high on Synthetic Marijuana, commonly known as K2.

Heroin and Suboxone were also recovered in two separate incidents at the facility that specializes in the treatment of drug addicted felons.

The first incident occurred on Saturday, January 18th at approximately 2:50 p.m. A K-9 alerted for drugs on a visitor's car in the parking lot. Staff located the owner of the vehicle in the lobby of the facility. During questioning, the visitor admitted to carrying Heroin and K2 in a latex glove finger hidden inside her pants. She voluntarily turned over the drugs and it tested positive. The female visitor was turned over to the state police and she was arrested for Promoting Prison Contraband 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th.

The assault occurred at approximately 5:20 p.m. on January 18th. The inmate was acting irrationally and was threatening to kill another inmate in the hallway of a dorm. An officer ordered the inmate to calm down and to move away from the other inmate. He refused to listen to the orders. The officer had to forcefully remove the inmate from the hallway. The inmate turned and punched the officer in the mouth. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Additional staff arrived as the inmate continued to struggle. Once mechanical restraints were applied staff escorted him to the infirmary to be evaluated. During the escort he attempted to head butt two officers and kick two others.

The inmate, once under control, was transported to a local hospital for evaluation. He was later transferred to Auburn Correctional Facility. He admitted to using K2 prior to the attack.

The officer who was punched in the mouth sustained a cut upper lip, damage to a tooth and left chest soreness. He remained on duty.

On Wednesday, January 22, at approximately 4:25 p.m., an officer was making his rounds in one of the dorms and noticed an inmate's locker open and ajar. Upon inspection, the officer discovered a latex finger of a glove hidden behind containers on a shelf in the locker. Inside the finger were orange bundles wrapped in cellophane. The drugs tested positive for Suboxone.

The inmate faces disciplinary charges and was transferred to Auburn Correctional Facility.

All of the drugs seized were taken as evidence.

"Willard is a facility that treats drug addicted inmates yet in a week alone Heroin, Synthetic Marijuana and Suboxone were seized at the facility. These are extremely dangerous drugs that can lead to inmates acting violent. Yet, instead of providing staff with the necessary resources to combat the influx of contraband, staff continue to work in an environment where they get attacked and drugs flow in. Instead of closing facilities, our elected officials should be concentrating on how to make them safer for staff. Until that occurs, the record number of assaults and contraband will continue to rise." – stated Mark Deburgomaster, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.