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For Immediate Release

Officers Injured During Attacks at Wende Correctional Facility

Synthetic Marijuana also Seized from Mailed Package

Alden, NY – Officers were injured in two separate attacks at the maximum security facility and Synthetic Marijuana was discovered inside vegetables mailed to an inmate.

The first incident occurred on Tuesday, April 7, at approximately 6:24 p.m. An officer was making rounds in the facility when he passed by an inmate who was at the J-Pay kiosk. When the officer passed the inmate, he was punched several times in the head and face. Additional staff responded and OC Spray was administered to the inmate with no effect. Two officers, along with the officer who was initially attacked, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Mechanical restraints were applied and the inmate was removed from the area and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Four officers sustained injuries. The officer who was initially attacked sustained a broken nose. He was taken to an outside hospital for treatment. A second officer was taken to an outside hospital and treated for a small cut to his hand. Both officers were treated and released.

Two officers were treated by facility staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, 31, is serving an eight year sentence after being convicted for two counts of Attempted Murder 2nd in Queens County in 2013.

On Monday, April 13, an officer was processing a package mailed to an inmate when he discovered a green leafy substance inside of two bell peppers. The substance tested positive for Synthetic Marijuana, commonly known as K2. The drug weighed 40 grams. The package was mailed from Rochester, NY.

The drugs were seized as evidence. The investigation is continuing.

On Wednesday, April 15, at approximately 10:35 a.m., staff observed an inmate become disruptive in his cell. The inmate stated he was going to hurt himself. The inmate was removed from his cell and was taken for observation. An officer removed his mechanical restraints so the inmate could be frisked for contraband. With the restraints off, the inmate struck the officer in the face, breaking his glasses. With the assistance of two other officers, the inmate was grabbed in a body hold, taken to the ground. While still struggling with the officers on the floor, the mechanical restraints were reapplied.

Two officers sustained injuries in the incident and were exposed to blood. A third officer was also exposed to blood. The officers went to an outside hospital for treatment of their injuries and exposure. They were treated and released.

“Even as the state deals with this pandemic, assaults on staff and contraband continue to occur inside our state prisons. Our members are on the front line risking their health and safety every day and we should not lose sight of the fact that attacks on staff are still occurring and inmates continue to attempt to smuggle drugs in through mailed packages. I am extremely thankful that the officers that were attacked in the two assaults were not seriously injured.” – said Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.