



Officers Assaulted at Sullivan Correctional Facility

Two Officers Sustain Concussions in Attack

April 24, 2020

Fallsburg, NY – Four officers were treated at a local hospital for injuries sustained in an attack by an inmate at the maximum security prison.

On Wednesday, April 8, the inmate was being frisked before being admitted to a Special Housing Unit for discipline. His mechanical restraints were removed during the frisk. Without restraints on, the inmate turned and struck an officer multiple times in the face with his elbow and fist. Additional officers responded and got the inmate to the ground where he continued to struggle. During the struggle, the inmate bit two officers. The officers were able to get mechanical restraints back on the inmate and he was escorted to his cell in the Special Housing Unit.

The officers removed his restraints in the cell. As they exited the cell, the inmate lunged at the officers and struck one officer in the face. OC Spray was administered and the inmate stopped the attack.

The injured officers were treated by medical staff at the facility and were transported to a local hospital.

One officer sustained a concussion, bite wound to his pinkie, and facial abrasion. A second officer sustained a bite wound to his pinkie and pain and swelling to his right knee. A third officer sustained pain to the side of the head and decreased cervical motion. A sergeant sustained a concussion and right knee pain.

The inmate, 28, is serving a four to five year sentence after being convicted for two counts of Assault 2nd and one count of Attempted Arson 3rd in 2017 in New York County.

“As our members continue to work the front line during the COVID-19 crisis, violent inmates continue to attack officers. Four officers injured by an inmate who suddenly attacked them without any provocation. Two officers needed to be treated for exposure after the inmate bit their fingers and one officer has not returned to work because of concussion symptoms and an infection to his finger that was bit. This type of attack is the exact reason why there needs to be appropriate discipline to deter inmates from attacking staff. Without it these attacks will continue. ” – stated Mike Mazzella , NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.