



Officers Assaulted, Injured at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

Officer Sustains Puncture Wound From Inmate Assault

For Immediate Release

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Ossining, NY –Several officers were injured in separate assaults at the maximum security prison over the past two weeks, including one officer who was stabbed in the back with a sharpened pencil.

On Saturday, February 6, an officer was attacked during a routine random cell search. As one officer was conducting the search of a cell, a second officer stayed outside of the cell with the inmate. The inmate suddenly rushed the officer and jumped on her, knocking her to the ground causing her to strike the back of her head on the concrete floor. On the ground, the inmate struck the female officer repeatedly in the chest. The officer conducting the cell search attempted to get the inmate off the officer but was kicked in the knee. Two other officers responded to the assault and pulled the inmate off the female officer, forced him to the floor, and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate stopped being combative.

Four officers were injured in the incident. The officer initially attacked sustained pain to her knee, lower back and shoulder. The officer who was kicked in the knee sustained pain and swelling to her knee and back. Both officers remained on duty after being treated by the facility medical staff. The two officers who responded to the assault needed medical attention at an outside hospital. One officer sustained a swollen hand, wrist and knuckles. The second officer sustained an asthma attack after the incident. Both officers were treated and released.

The inmate, 25, is serving a 30 year sentence after being convicted in Suffolk County in 2016 for Manslaughter 2nd Assault 1st and Attempted Assault 2nd.

On Saturday, February 14, an officer was attacked by an inmate returning to his cell from lunch. The officer was escorting inmates back from the mess hall when the inmate became

aggravated and aggressive towards the officer. The officer attempted to calm the inmate down but he refused. The inmate struck the officer in the side of the head. The officer called for assistance. The officer was able to knock the inmate backwards and he fell to the ground. Additional officers arrived on the scene and one officer noticed the inmate had something cupped in his hand. He was ordered to release what he was holding and he complied. Handcuffs were applied and the inmate was taken to the infirmary. At the infirmary, the inmate became unresponsive. Narcan was administered and the inmate became responsive. He admitted to staff to smoking synthetic marijuana before the attack.

Officers recovered a sharpened plastic shank that the inmate dropped on the ground. A second plastic shank was recovered from his cell underneath his bed.

The officer was taken to an outside hospital for an abrasion to the left forehead and sprained wrist. He was treated and released.

The inmate, 40, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. He is serving a 13 year sentence after being convicted in 2014 in Queens County for Rape 1st and Attempted Burglary 2nd.

The third assault occurred on Wednesday, February 17. On one of the cell blocks an inmate approached an officer aggressively. The officer ordered the inmate to stop but he refused. The officer administered OC spray but it had no effect. The inmate charged at the officer and grabbed him in a bear hug. The officer was able to push forward causing both men to fall to the ground. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and with the assistance of a second officer placed the inmate in handcuffs stopping the assault.

The officer was treated by facility medical staff where it was determined the inmate had stabbed the officer in the back with a sharpened pencil. He was taken to an outside hospital where the pencil tip had to be removed from his back.

The responding officer sustained pain and swelling to his wrist and fingers while subduing the inmate and was treated by medical staff at the facility.

The inmate, 38, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. State police were notified. The inmate is serving a 43 year sentence after being convicted in Westchester County for Rape 1st, Burglary 1st, Burglary 2nd and Criminal Sexual Act 1st.

“The seriousness of these assaults cannot be understated. Simply put, these are vicious, brazen attacks by violent felons who show no regard for staff or for discipline. Regardless of the length of the inmates sentences, we strongly encourage the Westchester District Attorney’s Office to review and prosecute these cases. Without stronger internal discipline measures there is no deterrent to not attack staff. In addition to these assaults, an officer had an unknown liquid thrown in his face and needed to be treated at a hospital for exposure. Inmate advocates who continue to push for legislation to reduce discipline have no regard for the dangerous job our members have. Until our elected officials recognize the record levels of violence in our prisons and make changes to protect staff, staff will continue to be targets.” – stated Dave Luther, NYSCOPBA Southern Region Vice President.