



Officer Slashed and Cut by Inmate at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

Attack Occurred after Morning Meal

For Immediate Release

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Ossining, NY –An officer received 13 sutures after an inmate armed with two ceramic blades slashed and cut him during an attack that occurred after the morning meal at the maximum security correctional facility Wednesday.

The officer was monitoring inmates returning to their cell block after the morning meal when the inmate began ascending the wrong stairwell. The officer followed him and confronted the inmate. He ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk, which he refused and he attempted to run from the officer. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold but the inmate was able to break free. He reached into his pants pocket and pulled out a make-shift knife and began making slashing motions to the front of the officers neck. The officer grabbed the knife and he and the inmate struggled for possession of it.

A second officer heard the attack and responded. He administered OC spray, which had no effect. A third officer responded and grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor, with the inmate falling on top of the injured officer. He continued to make slashing motions at the officer while on the ground. He was able to break free and attempted to stab another officer in the stomach but was unsuccessful. A fourth officer responded and was able to force the knife out of the inmate's hand. After a brief struggle staff were able to apply handcuffs to the inmate. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to the infirmary.

The initial officer in the attack was treated by medical staff at the facility and transported by ambulance to Westchester Medical Center. He sustained lacerations to his neck and finger and puncture wounds to his thigh, finger and arm. He received 13 sutures to close his wounds.

The four officers who responded to the attack also sustained injuries. One officer sustained a laceration to his elbow. A second officer sustained a puncture wound to his finger. The other two officers sustained shoulder, neck, hand and forehead injuries subduing the inmate. The four officers were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate, 30, is serving a 25 years to life prison sentence after being convicted of Murder 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd in connection with the shooting death of a man outside a church in Nassau County in 2013.

After the attack, the inmate was transferred to Shawangunk Correctional Facility.

Officers recovered a ceramic blade fashioned into a make-shift knife with handle that was used in the attack. During a frisk after the attack, the inmate also spit out a ceramic blade that he had in his mouth. Both weapons were taken as evidence.

“This was a brazen attack on the officer at Sing Sing and could have been life threatening if not for the quick actions of all the officers involved. Clearly based on the nature of the attack, the inmate was attempting to cause serious injuries in assault and the officer is lucky that when he was slashed in the neck it didn’t sever one of his main arteries. The reality is the violence is nonstop with no signs of slowing down. With still two months left in the year, we have surpassed last year’s assault records in both inmate on staff assaults and inmate on inmate assaults. Already faced with staffing shortages and mandatory overtime, assaults on staff continue at a record pace, adding eight more officers who sustained injuries at the hands of three inmates from Sing Sing in the course of two days. What will it take for the State Legislature and the Governor to realize how dangerous an environment they have created for staff with their policies for them to take corrective actions to fix it once and for all? As we approach the new year and a new legislative session, it should be a priority for our elected officials to address the on-going violence in all of our state prisons. We are literally at a breaking point with no end in sight to the violence and these brave men and women deserve to work in an environment where their safety is the number one priority.”- stated David Luther, NYSCOPBA Southern Region Vice President.