



July 15, 2016

For Immediate Release

Four Correctional Officers Injured in Assault at Wende Correctional Facility

Inmate Attempts to Attack Officers with Shattered Baton

Alden , NY – A sergeant and three correctional officers were injured when they were attacked by an inmate they were taking to the infirmary for medical attention.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, July 13 at approximately 5:00 PM at the maximum security correctional facility.

The inmate, James Adams, had sought medical attention and was in the infirmary to be treated. The officers advised the inmate that he was going to be transferred to another infirmary inside the prison for observation. Inmate Adams refused to move for the officers.

The officers again advised Inmate Adams that he was going to be transferred. The sergeant on the scene ordered the inmate to turn around so he could be handcuffed. Inmate Adams suddenly turned around and struck the sergeant in the right eye and cheekbone.

Inmate Adams then turned and struck another officer in the face several times. The sergeant struck the inmate with his baton to stop the attack. The baton broke in half when Inmate Adams was struck.

Inmate Adams reached and picked up a broken piece of the baton and attempted to attack the officers with it.

One officer grabbed Inmate Adams in a body hold, while the other two officers and the sergeant got the broken baton away from him and got him into restraints.

During the struggle with the inmate, a Tele-Med Video Conference Unit was knocked over and damaged.

The sergeant sustained a laceration to his ear, abrasions to his elbows, left shoulder pain and hip and knee pain. He was treated at Erie County Medical Center for his injuries.

The three officers sustained multiple abrasions, pain, swelling and bruising. They sought outside medical treatment for their injuries.

Adams, 57, was transferred to Attica Correctional Facility and was placed in a special housing unit. He was convicted of Murder 2nd, Burglary 1st, Burglary 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd in Erie County in 1990.

He is serving a 30 year to life sentence.

"The assaults on staff in the Western Region continue to escalate. Four officers injured in one incident that thankfully didn't end in much more serious injuries for our members. This is a perfect example in which the officers were attempting to get the inmate the medical attention he needed and he turned on them violently and attacked them for no apparent reason. It is very fortunate that the inmate was not able to use the broken baton against any of the officers", stated Joe Miano, Western Region Vice President.

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