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Officers Injured at Gowanda Correctional Facility

Two Officers Treated at Outside Hospital for Injuries

Gowanda, NY – Two officers were treated at outside hospitals for injuries sustained in two separate inmate attacks at the medium security correctional facility last week.

The first attack occurred on Thursday, August 13 at approximately 7:30 a.m. An officer assigned to a housing unit was giving instructions to inmates in the unit. One inmate approached the officer's station and became belligerent and verbally threatened the female officer. He was given direct orders several times to return to his sleeping quarters but he refused. The inmate then lunged over the officer's desk at her. She immediately administered OC spray to the inmate which had no effect. The inmate entered the officer's office and grabbed her by the shirt and slammed her into the bulletin board. He proceeded to strike the officer in the face several times. She applied OC spray again to the face of the inmate. It had no effect. The inmate grabbed the officer's hair and struck her head on the ground. The officer was able to fight back and struck the inmate. The inmate retreated from the office and ran towards the bathroom. Responding officers located the inmate and placed him in mechanical restraints without further incident.

The injured officer was taken to an outside hospital. She was treated for pain and swelling to her right collar bone, left arm abrasions and pain to the right side and back of her head.

The inmate, 46, is serving an 18 years to life sentence after being convicted for Kidnapping 1st, Robbery 1st and two counts of Burglary 1st in Erie County in 1996. He was transferred to Collins Correctional Facility after the incident.

On Saturday, August 15 at approximately 4:30 p.m., an inmate attacked an officer near the elevator as he was being frisked. The officer was conducting the frisk just prior to taking the inmate to a Special Housing Unit. The inmate spun off the wall and struck the officer in the right side of the face. The officer, with the assistance from a second officer, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. The inmate continued to struggle with the two officers. OC spray was administered twice to the inmate but had no effect. The officers were able to get the inmate's wrists behind his back and into mechanical restraints.

The injured officer was taken to an outside hospital and treated for a laceration under his right eye, shoulder and forearm pain and two small lacerations to both forearms. He was treated and released.

A second officer was treated at the facility for left shoulder and right knee pain. He remained on duty.

The inmate, 31, is serving a five year sentence after being convicted for two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd in Jefferson County in 2019. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit following the incident.

“ As violence continues to increase in cities and towns across New York, attacks on staff continue to be the norm inside our violent prisons. Two more unprovoked attacks on staff to report again. Both officers sustained significant injuries in the attacks. As inmate advocates continue to call for reducing disciplinary measures, these attacks will continue to be the norm until we reverse course and have discipline to actually deter attacks from occurring.” – said Mark Deburgomaster , Western Region Vice President.