



Officer Stabbed at Wende Correctional Facility

Receives Seven Staples to Close Wound

August 20 , 2020

Alden, NY – An officer was stabbed in the head by an inmate armed with a make-shift weapon on Monday afternoon at the maximum security facility.

At approximately 5:30 p.m., the inmate's cell was being searched for contraband. The inmate was outside of the cell and was being pat frisked by an officer. The officer recovered a sharpened plastic toothbrush from the inmate's waistband. As the pat frisk was continuing, the inmate came off the wall and stabbed one of the officers on the left side of the back of his head. The officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold. Another officer attempted to assist and was punched by the inmate in the right side of his body. The inmate continued to struggle with officers and punched a third officer in the neck before breaking free and running down the cell block. Officers pursued him. The inmate grabbed a feed cart and garbage can and threw it at the officers. The officers administered several rounds of OC spray to the inmate. Still struggling, officers were able to get the inmate into mechanical restraints.

Injured staff were taken to the medical facility for treatment. Four officers were taken to a local hospital for further treatment. The officer who was stabbed received seven staples to close the wound behind his left ear. The other three officers were treated for abrasions, pain and swelling and exposure to blood. All four were treated and released.

The inmate, 21, was transferred to Attica Correctional Facility and placed in a Special Housing Unit. He is serving a 16 year sentence after being convicted for Manslaughter 1st in Rockland County in 2017.

Two make-shift weapons were recovered. Both weapons were toothbrushes sharpened on one end.

State Police were notified.

“ Daily occurrences of violence against staff are the norm now in our prisons. This latest attack, which included an inmate stabbing an officer in the back of the head, is just the latest example of how violent and dangerous our facilities are. This attack was committed by an inmate already serving a lengthy sentence for killing a teenager after hitting him in the head with a rock during a robbery. I sincerely hope the Erie County District Attorney’s Office prosecutes this inmate to the fullest extent of the law and sends a message this will not be tolerated.” – said Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.