



September 25, 2020

Officers Injured at Collins Correctional Facility

Numerous Incidents of Inmates Allegedly on Drugs Leads to Multiple Officers Injured

Collins, NY – Multiple officers were injured in September when inmates, who appeared to have been on drugs, struck officers who were attempting to investigate the incidents at the medium security correctional facility.

On Friday, September 4, an officer in the mess hall witnessed an inmate remove an object from his sock. The officer questioned the inmate, who admitted the object was synthetic marijuana, commonly known as K2. The officer instructed the inmate to get against the wall so he could frisk him. The inmate suddenly came off the wall and head-butted the officer in the face. The inmate ran with the officer in pursuit. The officer caught the inmate and put him in a body hold. The inmate continued swinging at the officer. With the assistance of staff, the inmate was placed in handcuffs and removed from area.

The officer sustained bruising and swelling to his face. He was treated at the facility and stayed on duty.

On Saturday, September 12, an officer was conducting a frisk of an inmate. The inmate took an unknown object and tried to swallow it. The officer put the inmate in a body hold, but he broke away and threw the object to the ground. Additional staff assisted and brought the inmate to the ground where he continued to resist and kicked an officer in the knee. OC spray was administered, but had no effect. Staff eventually got the inmate under control and into handcuffs. He was removed from the area. Officers recovered a green leafy substance inside a balloon that the inmate discarded.

Two officers sustained bruising, swelling and abrasions in the incident. They were treated at the facility and stayed on duty.

On Tuesday, September 15, two officers were conducting rounds in an inmate dorm when they heard yelling from the bathroom. They entered the bathroom and found an inmate in a stall who was incoherent and had vomited on himself. The inmate began kicking at the officers. He kicked one officer in the knee and groin and the second officer in the leg. The officers administered several applications of OC spray to the inmate, which had no effect. The officers were able to get the inmate on the floor and into handcuffs. The inmate was placed on a stretcher and was brought to the elevator to be transported to the infirmary. At the elevator, the inmate kicked three officers, one in the face, one in the shoulder and one in the ankle after he fell from the stretcher. While on the ground, the inmate continued to be combative and spit blood in an officer's face. Officers eventually got the inmate back under control and onto the stretcher and he was taken to the infirmary. At the infirmary, the inmate became unresponsive. Three doses of Narcan were administered before the inmate became responsive.

He was transported to a local hospital for observation.

Seven officers sustained injuries in the incident. All were treated at the facility. One officer went to an outside hospital to be treated for blood exposure. The remaining officers stayed on duty.

On Wednesday, September 16, an officer making rounds found an inmate laying on the floor of his cell unresponsive. He called for additional staff. Three officers entered the inmate's cell. When they entered, the inmate became alert and combative. He kicked two officers. Four officers were able to contain him on the floor and get him into handcuffs as he continued to kick at them.

The inmate was taken to the infirmary where staff determined he was under the influence of drugs.

Four officers sustained minor bruising and abrasions. They were treated at the facility and all stayed on duty.

On Thursday, September 17, an officer heard an inmate causing a disturbance at his cube inside the dorm. The officer observed the inmate destroying his cube. The officer approached the inmate who charged the officer and tackled him to the ground. Additional staff arrived and assisted in getting the inmate under control and into handcuffs.

He was taken to the infirmary where staff determined he was under the influence of drugs.

Three officers sustained bruising and abrasions subduing the inmate. They were treated at the facility and stayed on duty.

“ Despite the tremendous efforts of our members to stop drugs from getting into the hands of inmates, the incidents at Collins clearly shows that DOCCS needs to do more to prevent these

type of situations from occurring. These are inmates high on dangerous and often violent drugs who attack officers who are only attempting to get them medical help. This is not only happening at this prison, it is happening at facilities across the state. It will only be a matter of time before we have a member seriously injured in one of these incidents. DOCCS needs to reinstate the Secure Vendor Program and address the lack of inmate drug testing immediately.”
– said Mark Deburgomaster , Western Region Vice President.