



October 9, 2020

Officer Attacked at Gowanda Correctional Facility

Inmate Allegedly on Unknown Drugs During Assault

Gowanda, NY – One officer was injured at the medium security correctional facility when he went to investigate an inmate who was lying on the floor screaming and he suddenly grabbed the officer and attacked him.

On Tuesday, September, 29 at approximately 11:05 a.m., the officer heard loud screaming coming from one of the inmate dorm rooms. The officer went to investigate and witnessed an inmate on the floor screaming. The officer called for additional staff. The inmate appeared to be under the influence of an unknown substance. When the officer approached the inmate, the inmate grabbed his right leg and pants pocket, stood up and grabbed the officer around the waste and picked him up and slammed him on the bed. He was given several orders to get off the officer but he refused. OC spray was administered but had no effect. Several staff grabbed the inmate in body holds and pulled him off the bed and onto the floor. The inmate was still screaming and struggling. Staff were able to apply handcuffs to the inmate and he became compliant.

Once under control, the inmate was placed on a stretcher and transported to the infirmary. At the infirmary, the inmate became incoherent and unresponsive. Medical staff administered two doses of Narcan until he became responsive. He was transported to a local hospital for observation.

The officer sustained injuries to his groin, right wrist and back. He was treated at the facility and transported to a local hospital. He did not return to duty.

No other staff were injured.

The inmate, 34, is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Erie County for Assault 1st in 2011.

“Once DOCCS reinstated inmate visitation there has been an uptick in drugs getting into the hands of inmates. All throughout this pandemic staff did an excellent job detecting contraband coming in through mailed packages. Now with visitation occurring again, they are tasked with another difficult situation of stopping visitors from bringing drugs into inmates. Until DOCCS takes this situation seriously these unprovoked attacks will continue.” – said Mark Deburgomaster , Western Region Vice President.