



Officers Injured at Cossackie Correctional Facility

Inmate Punches, Head-butts Two Officers

October 28, 2020

Cossackie, NY – Three officers were injured at Cossackie Correctional Facility last week when a disruptive inmate fought with officers in the mess hall at the maximum security prison.

The incident occurred on Sunday, October 18, at approximately 11:10 a.m. The inmate was going through the food serving line in the mess hall when he slammed his tray down, lunged towards an officer, and struck him several times in the face. The inmate immediately ran after the assault. The officer who was attacked, ran after him with the assistance of a another officer. They caught him at the rear of the mess hall and got him in an upper body hold. A third officer grabbed the inmate around the legs and began to force him to the ground. While going to the ground, the inmate head-butted one of the officers in the face. Once on the floor, the inmate continued to struggle until officers were able to get handcuffs on his wrists.

Once under control, the inmate was escorted to the infirmary for a medical evaluation. During a pat frisk, an officer found a sharpened plastic toothbrush with a cloth handle and a single prescription anti-depressant pill in his pants pocket. The contraband was seized as evidence.

The inmate, 19, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending a disciplinary hearing. He is serving a 11 year sentence after being convicted in Suffolk County in 2019 for Manslaughter 1st.

The officer who was initially assaulted sustained bruising and abrasions to the left side of his face, left eye and a superficial laceration inside of his lip. He was treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty. The officer who was head-butted sustained a swollen nose, laceration

to his upper lip, bruising and abrasions to the left side of his face and was disorientated. He was transferred to an outside hospital for further treatment.

“This was a serious unprovoked attack on two of our officers by a violent felon. Thankfully the two officers were able to act quickly, and with the assistance of another officer, get the inmate under control before they sustained any other injuries. As it turned out, the inmate was armed with a sharpened toothbrush that he easily could have used to stab any one of the officers in the struggle. This is another reminder on day when we celebrate National First Responders Day, the dangers our members face every day. I strongly encourage the Greene County District’s Attorney’s Office to pursue criminal charges in this senseless attack.” - stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.