



Officer Violently Attacked at Washington Correctional Facility

Inmate Attacks Officer During Routine Questioning

December 16, 2020

Comstock , NY – An officer was attacked inside the housing dorm at the medium security correctional facility after he questioned an inmate about wearing improper clothing.

The assault occurred on Saturday, December 5, at approximately 7:05 a.m. The officer was at the housing desk when the inmate walked by and was wearing sweatpants, which are not approved clothing. The officer went to the inmate's living cube and questioned him about the sweatpants. The inmate became belligerent and took an aggressive stance. The officer called for assistance. Another inmate in the dorm witnessed the incident and began to encourage the inmate to attack the officer.

The inmate charged the officer, picked him up, and drove him into the cube frame and onto the floor. On the floor, the inmate began to punch the officer. The officer attempted to use his OC spray but the inmate knocked the canister out of his hand. He continued to punch the officer in the face and head. The officer attempted to use his baton to get the inmate off him but was unsuccessful.

Three officers arrived at the cube to help. They made several attempts to get the inmate to stop the attack but were unsuccessful. OC spray was utilized but had no effect. The inmate was able to push one officer into a cube locker. As the attack continued, an officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold, pulled him off the injured officer, and forced the inmate to the floor. With assistance of other staff, handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant.

The inmate was removed from the dorm and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The inmate, 37, is serving a five year sentence after being convicted of Assault 2nd in Suffolk County in 2012. He was returned to the facility in 2018 after violating parole.

The officer who was attacked sustained abrasions, bruising, and swelling to his face, a possible fractured nose and dislocated shoulder. He was treated by the facility medical staff and brought to an outside hospital for further treatment. .

State Police were notified of the incident

“This was simply a violent, unprovoked attack on an officer who was doing his job and questioning the inmate about violating procedures. It took three officers to get the inmate to stop the attack after a violent struggle with him. Again, with watered down discipline for inmates, these attacks will continue. I strongly encourage the Washington County District Attorney’s Office to pursue charges against this inmate and send a message that attacks on staff will not be tolerated.” – stated John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.