

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Inmate Assaults Staff Member at TSCI

LINCOLN, Neb. – Today, an inmate assaulted a staff member at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI). During the effort to restrain the inmate, he was able to strike two other staff members. All three staff were treated for non-life-threatening injuries and released from the Johnson County Hospital.

Last Friday, September 2, 2016, TSCI was placed in a lockdown status due to threats of violence against staff. The NDCS intelligence team, facility staff and other security managers from throughout the agency worked collaboratively to investigate and substantiate the credibility of these threats. Based on the results of these efforts, out-of-cell time, including visits and dining were being restored gradually.

In one unit, information and behavior did not support as great of out-of-cell movement. The staff assault occurred in this housing unit while the inmate was being allowed access to showers and phones.

“Stopping staff assaults is my highest priority right now. Locking facilities down for a period of time assists, but it will not completely erase the opportunity to assault staff. These are deliberate decisions made by individuals set on harming others,” said Director Scott R. Frakes. “We will address each assault by utilizing: restrictive housing to separate individuals from the population; our internal disciplinary process, which allows for the inmate to lose up to two years of good time; and reports will be referred to the local county attorney.”

Warden Hansen and his team are working to determine if this was the action of one person or if this was a continuation of the threats from last weekend. “I just spoke with inmates from this housing unit this morning and we were prepared to increase movement and move towards more normal operations,” Warden Brad Hansen stated. “Increased movement will be based on inmate behavior and take staff safety into account.”

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