NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Director Scott R. Frakes

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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NDCS Inmate Assaults Staff Members

LINCOLN, Neb. – Today, three Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) staff members were assaulted by an inmate at the Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP).

At approximately 2 p.m., a maximum security, general population inmate began punching a Correctional Officer in the face with closed fists. Two other staff members were in the area and were also struck while attempting to assist the Officer.

Physical force was used to subdue the inmate. The first staff member was transported via emergency vehicle to a local medical facility for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. The two assisting staff also sought outside medical attention for non-life-threatening injuries.

NDCS will conduct the criminal investigation and results will be forwarded to the County Attorney. The names of the staff members and the inmate will not be released.

In addition to this incident, multiple reports indicate general unrest among the population and threats of physical violence toward staff. The medium/maximum housing units in the facility (approximately half of the inmate population) have been placed in a lockdown status, which means movement is strictly limited. Meals will be served in cells tonight. No visits will be held on Wednesday. Facility administration will continue to evaluate the situation to determine when movement will resume.

"Lockdowns are done to ensure people are safe - inmates, staff, the public. Though perceived as punishment, I don't authorize lockdowns to punish people. They are done to regain control of a facility, or, in this case, prevent actions that could lead to people getting hurt," said Director Scott R. Frakes. "Staff and inmate safety is a priority and violent, physical attacks on NDCS staff will not be tolerated."

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