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Prisoner to face attempted murder charge for attack on correction officer

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Prosecutors plan to seek an attempted murder charge against the state prison inmate who stabbed a correction officer Wednesday morning at Great Meadow Correctional Facility.

A Washington County grand jury will consider charges against the prisoner in coming weeks, once investigations by the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision and State Police are complete.

The officer, whose name has not been released, was treated at Glens Falls Hospital for injuries to his head and lower abdomen and has been released.

Morgan Hook, a spokesman for New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association, the union that represents state correction officers, said the prisoner initially tried to stab the officer in the neck.

He termed the incident “attempted murder,” and said it was unprovoked.

“It’s a very dangerous situation, and obviously this correction officer is incredibly fortunate that his injuries were not more severe,” Donn Rowe, president of NYSCOPBA, said in a prepared statement.

The officer was escorting the inmate and other inmates to breakfast at the maximum-security prison at around 7:45 a.m. when the prisoner used an 8-inch ice pick-type weapon made of brass to stab the guard’s head and torso.

A struggle ensued, and the guard helped disarm the inmate.

State Police said the inmate, whose name is being withheld because he has not been charged, told them he stabbed the guard because he wanted other officers to kill him, officials said.

DOCCS spokesman Tom Mailey said the inmate will face internal disciplinary action, and criminal charges were to be determined by State Police. He said the prisoner was transferred to Clinton Correctional Facility.

The 31-year-old inmate is serving a 46 1/2-years-to-life sentence for convictions for second-degree murder, first-degree assault and first-degree robbery in New York City.

He was convicted in 2004 and also has been convicted of possessing a weapon in prison while being housed at Attica Correctional Facility in 2008, Corrections Department records show.

Police said the murder conviction stemmed from the beating death of a handicapped person.

Washington County District Attorney Kevin Kortright did not return a telephone call for comment Friday.