

# Green Haven prison lockdown finds contraband



Craig Wolf, Poughkeepsie Journal 4:29 p.m. EDT September 19, 2014



(Photo: Karl Rabe / Poughkeepsie Journal file)

STORMVILLE – The state's prison department has completed a lockdown that began Monday at Green Haven Correctional Facility during a comprehensive "frisk" that turned up contraband.

One officer has been suspended at Green Haven, according to Michael Powers, president of the New York State Correctional Officers Police Benevolent Association. He did not have details.

The Department of Corrections and Community Supervision declined to say just what the contraband was. And a spokeswoman declined to discuss any reports of officers being disciplined, citing the "ongoing investigation."

However, in late August, a corrections officer who worked at Green Haven was charged by state police with taking a bribe to introduce a pound of marijuana into the prison.

Powers said searches commonly turn up homemade weapons, usually sharpened objects. According to the union's archive of statements, Green Haven had a lockdown in March after a large fight among inmates. A lockdown in December, 2013, found 35 homemade weapons, the union said.

In this week's event, the maximum security Green Haven prison was placed on a "complete lockdown order" Monday by Acting Commissioner Anthony Annucci "in order for the facility to undergo a thorough and complete frisk," said Linda Foglia, spokeswoman for the department. "Credible information led to the belief that significant amounts of contraband had been smuggled into the facility on a systemic basis over a period of time."

A lockdown means prisoners are confined to their cells.

"A frisk of this nature meant that all normal activity was suspended in order for each area of the facility to be carefully searched," Foglia said. "Due to the nature of the informational source, a number of special teams of departmental uniformed officers from other facilities were brought into Green Haven to conduct the frisk, which was completed in a safe and orderly process." That was Wednesday, she said.

The prison, which is home to about 1,900 inmates, started returning to normal operations today, with a modified program Thursday, she said. All operations are expected to be back to normal by Friday.

"Due to the ongoing investigation, DOCCS will not identify any specific contraband found," Foglia said.

Acting Commissioner Annucci said in a statement, "The safety of all staff, inmates and visitors is compromised by the presence of contraband in a facility, and therefore, all reasonable steps must be taken to eliminate it."

The arrest in August was of Victor Cruz, 34, of Wappingers Falls, who had been a corrections officer for six years. Foglia did not directly tie it to the shakedown of the prison. But the Poughkeepsie Journal reported then that troopers and the prison department's Inspector General's Office had been investigating and charged Cruz with accepting a bribe to introduce a pound of pot into the prison and was found in possession of it, troopers said.

He was charged with bribe receiving, criminal possession of marijuana an official misconduct.

Foglia said that there were no other agencies involved in the frisk.

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