



CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS ATTACKED AT PELICAN BAY

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WEST SACRAMENTO, CA –This morning, three correctional peace officers were viciously attacked by multiple inmates at Pelican Bay State Prison wielding prison-made knives.

Two officers suffered deep slash wounds on their faces and required dozens of stitches. Another officer sustained multiple stabbing injuries, including at least one that went through his collarbone. The three officers were rushed to a nearby hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. They were released later this afternoon.

“This latest attempt by multiple inmates to kill three correctional peace officers underscores the extremely dangerous working conditions dedicated correctional professionals are subjected to every day they come to work at our state prisons,” said Chuck Alexander, Executive Vice President of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association.

Pelican Bay State Prison was designed to house 2,280 of California’s most serious criminal offenders, but due to the state’s inmate overcrowding crisis, the prison currently houses 3,461 inmates.

The inmates who participated in the attack have been placed in segregation and will likely face felony charges for attempted murder of a peace officer, among other charges.

Also today, a state Parole Agent was attacked during a routine search by a parolee’s pit bull in the Bakersfield area. To defend himself, the agent was forced to shoot the dog.

“Our thoughts and prayers are with the officers and their families as they struggle to recover from these brutal attacks,” CCPOA’s Alexander said.

These latest attacks on California’s sworn peace officers are a somber reminder of the significant risks inherent in dealing with dangerous criminals and highlight the need to provide correctional peace officers - who routinely place themselves in harm’s way to keep our communities safe - with the necessary tools to safely and effectively perform their duties.

“We urge the Governor, the Legislature and the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation to act swiftly to ensure that proper staffing, equipment and adequate prison space are provided to reduce the potential for future attacks on California’s sworn law enforcement officers,” said Alexander.

About CCPOA

CCPOA represents the more than 31,000 correctional peace officers working inside California's prisons and youth facilities, and the state's parole agents who supervise inmates after their release. Since its founding in 1957, CCPOA's mission has been to promote and enhance the correctional profession, protect the safety of those engaged in corrections and advocate for the laws, funding and policies needed to improve prison operations and protect public safety.

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