

## AROUND THE STATE: FSAs RESPOND TO PATIENT ASSAULT; JCS COs ASSAULTED BY DRUNK INMATE

**Forensic Security Assistants (FSAs) at the Center for Forensic Psychiatry intervened in a violent patient-on-patient assault Jan. 3.**

One patient hit another with a chair and then bit off a piece of his lip. The assaulted patient was sent out for medical care. The aggressor has attacked other patients and staff in the past, an FSA said.

A diffusion meeting was held for the staff who responded.

FSAs have dangerous jobs, too, that require them to run toward danger instead of away from it. Thank you, FSAs, for your handling of this incident. Stay safe.

**An inmate drunk on New Year's Eve assaulted four officers at Cooper Street and kicked a hole in a wall.**

The Level I inmate was belligerent. Because all holding cells were full, officers took him to a strip search room. He was able to move his handcuffs to the front of his body, an officer said. He headbutted one CO and spit on another. Two other COs were also assaulted. One officer had a bloody nose, but no serious injuries were reported, an officer said.

The prisoner was drunk on spud juice.

### COOPER STREET CO OPENS UP ABOUT SURVIVING COVID-19

A Cooper Street officer made a miraculous recovery from COVID-19 last month.

"I was OK, then it got worse. Next thing I remember, I woke up in the hospital and the ventilator was coming off," Jermaine Ross said.

Less than two months ago, Ross was a 40-year-old father of two who loved to run and work out. He had a few pre-existing conditions but was managing them well through diet and exercise.

Then COVID hit Cooper Street. There were many cases in D-unit, where Ross was assigned. He was

sent on a hospital run Nov. 17 and was mandated to work 16 hours that day. Ross said he was exhausted at the end of day, but thought it was just from work. He took a routine COVID test the next day, and a couple of days later, received a positive result.

"I did everything right," Ross said. "Wore my mask, washed my hands, social distanced. And I still got it."

[Read the full story on our website.](#)

As of Jan. 14, [more than 3,000 MDOC staff](#) – about 25 percent – have contracted COVID-19. At least four staff have died. MCO leaders and staff thank all officers, FSAs, ARU investigators, and all members for their extraordinary sacrifices during this pandemic. Stay safe and well.



CO Ross

## COVID-19 UPDATES

• A few weeks ago, we sent a [special message to members](#) summarizing MCO's advocacy for frontline staff throughout 2020 and our top priorities in the new year.

In the coming weeks, we'll be calling on members to assist union leadership in speaking out on the working conditions in the prisons and the Center for Forensic Psychiatry.

Watch your email and our website for more.

• If you have been forced to use your own leave time or go into lost time due to close contact or a positive COVID test, [please fill out this form](#) for the MCO Legal Department.

• There have been 3,237 COVID-19 cases confirmed among MDOC staff and 23,400 among inmates.

[MDOC posts the latest numbers \(broken down by facility\) here.](#)

**Are you still waiting for your holiday mailing with the calendar book?** The delay is mail-related. Additional books have been sent out to those members who have reported not getting the original shipment.

**We have heard from a large number of members at SLF, STF, SRF, MRF, WCC, TCF and WHV who did not get their holiday packet.** We have delivered extra calendar books to these chapter presidents with a list of who needs them. If you are at any of those locations and submitted an email for a new book, please contact your chapter president to get one.

If you are not at one of those facilities and still need a calendar book, email [Mikaela Bliven](#).