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# UPDATE: Marquette Branch Prison says inmates threw bodily waste at staff, remain disruptive in cells

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Harold Terens and his fiancée Jeanne Swerlin kissed and held hands like high school sweethearts as they discussed their upcoming wedding in France — a country the World War II veteran first visited as a 20-year-old U.S. Army Air Forces corporal shortly after D-Day. (Source: AP Video/Cody Jackson)

By TV6 News Team

Published: Mar. 14, 2024 at 11:33 AM EDT | Updated: Mar. 15, 2024 at 5:44 PM EDT



MARQUETTE, Mich. (WLUC) - UPDATE: Since Thursday, some inmates at the Marquette Branch Prison have continued to remain disruptive in their cells.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), in the past 24 hours, it has seen two inmates trying to start small fires in their cells and throwing material like bodily waste at staff. Level 1 and Level 5 activities have resumed, which include things like yard time, meals and programming.

Several of the disruptive prisoners have now been transferred to other MDOC facilities around the state. The MDOC said it will be requesting prosecution and restitution from those who are found to have assaulted staff or damaged state property.

The situation will continue to be monitored closely throughout the weekend.

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The MDOC said it would like to thank its staff at the Marquette Branch Prison, who they say have done a commendable job keeping the unit safe during this period while dealing with this behavior, and staff such as the Corrections Transportation Officers, who assisted with transfers, for all their work this week keeping their colleagues and the state safe.

Last published: Mar 14, 2024 6:13:12 PM

Sections of Marquette Branch Prison are under restrictions Thursday following assaults targeting staff and inmates starting fires in their cells.

According to the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC), multiple prisoners in the administrative segregation units at the [Marquette Branch Prison](#) started fires in their cells in the early evening hours Wednesday. This followed several assaults targeting staff, as well as three in-cell fires in the unit, in the preceding two days. Staff responded and extinguished the fires.

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Due to smoke in the unit, prisoners in surrounding cells were evacuated by staff to other areas of the facility, including an adjacent closed housing unit and the prisoner yard modules. Two employees and one prisoner were taken to the hospital as a result of potential smoke inhalation. The two employees have been treated and released, while the prisoner remains hospitalized.

Two cells have been temporarily removed from service due to damage, but the units are otherwise operational, the MDOC says.

As the process of returning prisoners to their cells began, some prisoners were verbally resistant to staff directions to be escorted back into the unit, including directing threats at staff. Additional staff was called to the facility to support the staff that were there.

This included staff from the Marquette Branch Prison and roughly a dozen staff from other facilities that serve on the MDOC's Emergency Response Team (ERT). After additional communication from staff, all prisoners were escorted back to their cells without incident. The ERT members have returned to their facilities.

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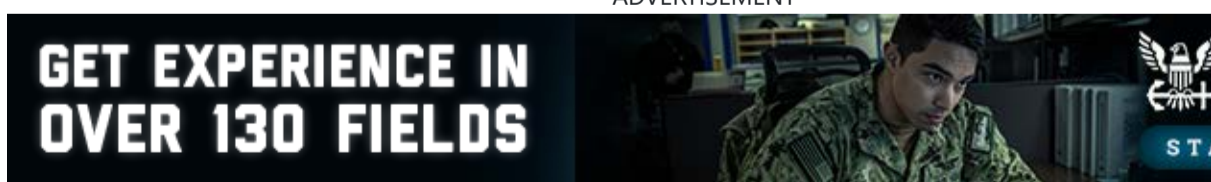
At this time, the Marquette Branch Prison is under restricted prisoner movement in the impacted units and will remain in that status on Thursday for the safety of prisoners and staff.

The MDOC says it would like to thank staff for their dedication and professionalism over the past few days at the Marquette Branch Prison.

The maximum-security portion of the facility has four general population housing units and two administrative segregation housing units.

A single prisoner started a small fire in his cell Thursday, the MDOC says. Staff extinguished it using a fire extinguisher and there were no injuries.

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The president of the union for corrections officers and staff says his organization is looking into the situation.

"We have serious concerns about this incident and the safety of our corrections officers and other staff working at Marquette Branch Prison," said Byron Osborn, Michigan Corrections Organization President. "Specifically, we are inquiring about the circumstances that led up to this incident and what steps the administration will be taking to address it and hold prisoners responsible for their threats and actions."

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