

From: Mudgett, Dean [Dean.Mudgett@vermont.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 12, 2016 11:51 AM
To: Allen, Susan; Menard, Lisa; Touchette, Mike
Subject: MEDIA RELEASE: UPDATE: DOC hostage Situation at NSCF
Attachments: Hughes.jpg; Devac.jpg

Hello everyone –

Below (and attached) is the media release with an update on the situation yesterday at NSCF.

SUE - - before we send it, just want to see if you are OK with this version?

THANKS!

UPDATE: DOC HOSTAGE SITUATION AT NORTHERN STATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Waterbury, VT - On August 11 at 12:48pm, two inmates at the Northern State Correctional Facility (NSCF) in Newport, VT, took hostage a DOC staff member. The Department immediately activated its Special Response Team, which successfully resolved the incident at 3:13pm without injury to the staff member or inmates.

The first inmate is Mehmed Devac (photo attached), a 22-year old male from Hinesburg convicted of Assault and Robbery with injury, Aggravated Assault, and several other misdemeanor offenses. He has been incarcerated since August 25, 2014, and at NSCF since October 16, 2015. He has a minimum release date of May 23, 2020, and a maximum release date of May 20, 2032.

The second inmate is Leroy Hughes (photo attached), a 32-year old male from St. Albans convicted of Grand Larceny and Assault and Robbery with a weapon. He has been incarcerated since June 8, 2015, and at NSCF since February 9, 2016. He has a minimum release date of March 15, 2019, and a maximum release date of March 11, 2032.

The Department of Corrections is conducting an internal review of the incident, and the Vermont State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation is conducting a criminal investigation. Both investigations are ongoing. Updates will be issued once the investigations are completed.

NSCF has been under modified lockdown since the time of the incident Thursday afternoon. DOC staff are working to return the facility to normal operations as soon as possible. Vermont's six other correctional facilities were placed under modified lockdown during the incident and through Thursday evening, but have returned to normal operations.

"I want to thank DOC's Newport and Special Response teams for their excellent work resolving this situation yesterday. They displayed an impressive level of professionalism, skill and training that was responsible for a positive and timely resolution," said DOC Commissioner Lisa Menard. "Ensuring the safety of DOC staff and the inmates in DOC custody is vitally important. Once the investigations currently underway are complete, my Department will carefully review the findings, identify where our operational and security practices worked well, and evaluate measures that can help mitigate the occurrence of similar incidents in the future."

Commissioner Menard also expressed her thanks to local law enforcement that responded to NSCF after being notified of the situation – the Vermont State Police, Newport City Police Department, Orleans County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Border Patrol.

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