



Fresno County Sheriff – Coroner Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

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News Release

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Jail Inmate Attacks and Stabs Fresno County Sheriff's Correctional Officer

On March 19th at 6:30 pm, Fresno County Sheriff's correctional officers were serving meals to inmates of the Main Jail. During this time, inmate Charlie Michael Smith ambushed a correctional officer and stabbed him multiple times in the back and head with a weapon he had made in jail. Assisting correctional officers detained the 33 year old Smith and placed him in a holding cell. The injured correctional officer was transported to the hospital for medical treatment. FSO homicide detectives immediately began an investigation. The motive for this attack has not been determined.

The correctional officer returned home Sunday and is making a steady recovery. He received some stitches and is expected to return to his duties soon. He has worked as an FSO correctional officer since December 2015. He had never had any previous contact with his attacker, Charlie Smith.

Smith was arrested on January 26, 2016 for a felony charge of being a parolee in possession of a firearm. He was recently convicted in court and was scheduled to be transported to Wasco State Prison this week to serve a sentence of two years and eight months. Smith will now remain in the Fresno County Jail as he awaits a hearing on his new charge of attempted murder. Smith's prior convictions include: Carjacking, robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

“Attacks with jail made weapons on jail staff members are extremely rare. Our correctional officers undergo rigorous training to ensure all Fresno County Jail facilities are safe environments for themselves and inmates,” said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims.

Anyone with additional information on Charlie Smith is asked to please contact the Sheriff’s Office dispatch at (559) 600-3111 or Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-STOP (7867). All tips will remain anonymous and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Case # 16-4512