

REVIEWS: 07/15/2017 2109 hrs - I have been assigned the review of packet #2258 involving Inmate Sullivan, C. #677564, which occurred in 5D on 6-28-17. All reports are included and complete in content, (there is no video of this incident). This incident began when Inmate Sullivan took some Gatorade (which he was not supposed to have taken) from the med tech, ran to his cell and disobeyed the orders from the module deputy. Staff were called to respond to escort Inmate Sullivan to disciplinary housing for the rule violations he committed. According to reports, once staff arrived in 5D Inmate Sullivan was given multiple orders by multiple staff members to be handcuffed through the food port, all of which he refused. Staff also noted that Sullivan used obscene language toward staff and made threats against their well-being. Staff noted that Sullivan finally agreed to be handcuffed but not through the food port and advised staff to come in and get him. Sgt. Ingram noted in his report that, "It appeared to me he [Sullivan] posed no threat and was ready to be handcuffed." However, Inmate Sullivan had deceived staff members and once staff entered the cell Sullivan instantly became combative. He attempted to punch Sgt. Ingram in the face, elbow several staff members and mule kicked Deputy Muth, knocking her to the ground. Most unusual though, was the fact that Inmate Sullivan had crafted a weapon out of ground up super spicy chips and threw it in the faces of responding staff as a way to disable them as they entered. The apparent motive of Sullivan with the chips was to use the ground up substance as a kind of pepper spray towards staff members. Staff at that point had governmental interest to use force to restrain and move Inmate Sullivan to disciplinary housing. Staff noted in their reports that Sullivan, "Resisted furiously," and "Struggled the entire way," as well as pushed a deputy off of him with his legs. Staff noted that throughout the move to disciplinary housing they ordered Inmate Sullivan to stop resisting and stop fighting them. Once they arrived in 4F, Sgt. Ingram made the decision to cut Inmate Sullivan's clothes off to be changed into a white suit for disciplinary level 4. Sullivan had been non-compliant the entire process and there was no reason for Sgt. Ingram to believe Sullivan would have been compliant with the strip search and clothing exchange. I conclude that the decision to cut Sullivan's clothes off while he was already restrained and at a position of disadvantage was the best decision to minimize the possibility of furthering the use of force.

After the clothing was removed, Sullivan was quoted in reports as saying he wasn't going to fight or resist anymore and staff were able to facilitate the nurse entering the cell to examine him. As a means to provide after care, Sgt. Ingram noted that he turned Inmate Sullivan on his side so he could breathe easier and covered him in a white jumpsuit to act like a blanket and keep him warm. Sullivan was soon transferred to the hospital where he was treated for the injury to his arm he sustained during his resistance in the use of force.

After reviewing this use of force and gaining an understanding of how the entire incident unfolded, I believe staff acted with the goal in mind of preventing further assault from Inmate Sullivan and to get him safely contained in a disciplinary cell. This use of force appears to have been conducted in accordance with MCSO Use of Force Policy. (Sgt Gary Glaze)

08/01/2017 2248 hrs - I have read the attached reports. There is no video footage of this event. All reports appear consistent in their description of the event, however there are some variations due to individual perspective and recall. Staff reports indicate that Inmate Sullivan was initially hostile and challenging to staff that arrived first on the scene. Staff responded appropriately by requesting a sergeant to assist with the matter. Sergeant Ingram arrived and attempted to de-escalation techniques in hopes of resolving the situation by gaining cooperation from Inmate Sullivan. This was unsuccessful. Acting Sergeant Barker arrived and began a dialogue with the Inmate and also attempted to deescalate the situation. Deputy Muth's report indicates that Inmate Sullivan was verbally hostile and challenging to Sergeant Ingram and Acting Sergeant Barker. This is inconsistent with the information provided by Sergeant Ingram and Acting Sergeant Barker. All other staff reports seem to support the perception of the Sergeant and Acting Sergeant and indicate that Inmate Sullivan was not displaying hostility and anger as he was interacting with Sergeant Ingram and Acting Sergeant Barker.

After interacting with Inmate Sullivan and attempting to gain cooperation, both Sergeant Ingram and Acting Sergeant Barker felt that it was safe to enter the Inmate's cell and secure him in handcuffs. They both indicated that Inmate Sullivan appeared to be willing to submit to handcuffing and they did not perceive him to be a threat based on his behavior and interaction at the time. They ensured that staff were ready with other force options (Taser) before entering the cell as a safety precaution. After Inmate Sullivan turned around and placed his hands behind his back as directed, the cell door was opened and staff entered in anticipation of applying handcuffs to a compliant Inmate. Reports indicate that as they entered the cell they were suddenly and unexpectedly assaulted as Inmate Sullivan spun around and threw handfuls of crushed corn chips covered with powdered hot peppers in the faces of staff and then began to throw closed fist punches at them. Staff responded by attempting to gain control of the Inmate's arms and pin him against the wall and desk area in the cell. Acting Sergeant Barker noted in his report that Inmate Sullivan delivered several targeted elbow strikes to his head/upper body. Acting Sergeant Barker stated that Inmate Sullivan was looking over his shoulder in order to direct his elbow strikes.