

"We can take a lot, but spitting in the face is pretty bad," Neisser said.

To add insult to injury, Cherry taunted Deputy Bill Garmer shortly before he spit in his face, Neisser said.

He said Cherry asked the deputy if he was going to charge him. When Garmer asked, "For what?" Cherry started spitting.

A struggle ensued, Neisser said, and Garmer took the teen to the floor in order to get him under control.

Garmer was injured in the scuffle. Neisser said the deputy — who returned to work today — fell and struck his head and back on the elevator. He was taken to Anne Arundel Medical Center where he was treated and released.

Neisser said deputies don't have many problems escorting inmates to holding cells. But when they do have problems, they usually involve juveniles in courtrooms.

"I think it is because they are young and don't know any better," he said. "They don't think anything can happen to them."

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Teen spits at deputy, faces up to 40 years

2nd incident involving a teenager this month

By **SCOTT DAUGHERTY**
Staff Writer

An Annapolis man asked a deputy Wednesday if he would face new charges moments before he spit in his face at the county courthouse in Annapolis, a Sheriff Department spokesman said.

Later that day, Deondray Cherry — who was in court on old juvenile charges — got his answer, and now he faces up to 40 years in prison.

Cherry, 18, of 1337 Tyler Ave., was charged with second-degree assault of a law-enforcement officer, second-degree assault and reckless endangerment in connection with the 10:15 a.m. incident in a back elevator at the courthouse.

It was the second time this month Cherry spit at deputies, said Deputy Harry Neisser, the spokesman. Cherry was charged April 9 with three counts of second-degree assault following a similar incident at the courthouse involving three other deputies.

Cherry, who turned 18 last month, faces up to 10 years in prison on each count of second-degree assault.