



**New York State Correctional Officers
& Police Benevolent Association, Inc.**
"Keeping New York Safe"

Officers Viciously Attacked by Inmates at Elmira Correctional Facility

Officer Stabbed in Arm in One Attack

For Immediate Release

October 26, 2021

Elmira, NY – One officer sustained a puncture wound after being stabbed by an inmate armed with a makeshift weapon and a second officer sustained a fractured elbow after being attacked near the mess hall at the maximum security facility.

The two attacks, which were related, occurred at approximately 8:05 a.m. on Monday, October 25.

Initially, an inmate entering the mess hall began arguing with an officer. He took an aggressive stance towards the officer. The officer administered one round of OC Spray, which was effective. The inmate became complaint.

Another inmate, who was observing the incident, approached and attacked the officer and began punching him multiple times in the face. The officer administered OC Spray, which had no effect. The inmate continued to punch the officer in the head, knocking him backwards to the floor. The inmate continued to viciously attack the officer on the floor. A second officer responded to assist. The inmate continued to be combative and ignored all orders to stop the attack. Both officers were able to place the inmate in a body hold and force him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, the inmate's arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became complaint and was removed from the area.

During the assault, a second inmate attempted to join in the attack. A sergeant on the scene attempted to stop the inmate from interfering. The inmate punched the sergeant in the side of the head, knocking him to the ground and briefly unconscious. He proceeded to run into the empty mess hall where he was pursued by staff. When staff confronted him, he pulled a sharpened tooth brush from his waistband and threatened staff with the weapon. OC Spray was administered with no effect. Staff attempted to use force to knock the weapon from the inmate's hand but were unsuccessful.

As the incident progressed, the inmate suddenly lunged at one officer with the make-shift weapon and stabbed him in the bicep. He was grabbed by the officer and with the assistance of four officers, was taken to the ground, where he lost grip of the weapon and dropped it to the floor.

He continued to struggle with staff before handcuffs were applied.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate was removed from the scene.

After control was restored, staff searched the inmate's cell and located a second sharpened tooth brush and a metal cutting instrument hidden under his bed.

Staff also recovered a Plexiglas shank hidden inside a container of baby powder in the cell of an inmate that was not involved in the assaults.

All weapons were seized as evidence.

Four officers were injured in the two attacks.

The officer initially assaulted was taken to Arnot Odgen Medical Center and treated for a fractured elbow, two lacerations to his eyelid and upper lip, and knee pain. He did not return to duty.

The officer who assisted him sustained swelling and pain to his hand. He was treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate who injured both officers, was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. He is serving 25 years to life after being convicted in New York County in 2018 for Murder 2nd, Manslaughter 1st, and Arson 4th.

In the second attack, the officer who was stabbed sustained a puncture wound to his left bicep and a swollen knee. He was transported to Arnot Odgen Medical Center for treatment. He did not return to duty.

The sergeant who was punched in the head and briefly knocked unconscious, was treated by facility medical staff for pain and swelling to his jaw. He remained on duty.

The inmate in the attack is serving a 27 year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County in 2016 for Manslaughter 1st and Attempting to Promote Prison Contraband 1st. In 2012 he was arrested after he shot his mother in the head while she lay in bed and beat her to death with a baseball bat before disposing her body in a dumpster.

State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation were notified of two attacks.

“Both violent, vicious attacks, are exactly the reason why a watered down disciplinary system will continue to have no deterrence on unprovoked attacks. It will only get worse once HALT legislation goes into effect next year. Our elected officials who have continually advocated for these weakened policies should look these officers in the eyes so they fully understand the violence they are subjected to every day. Their ill-conceived policies only embolden an inmate who savagely shoots his mother and beats her to death with a baseball bat. That is simply unacceptable!” - stated , Mark Deburgomaster , NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.