



# New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

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## *"Keeping New York Safe"*

### ***Staff Injured at Elmira Correctional Facility***

*Several Inmate Attacks on Officers Send Two to Local Hospital*

**July 26, 2022**

**Elmira, NY** – The wave of violence inside State correctional facilities continued last week when five officers and a sergeant were injured in three separate attacks at the maximum security correctional facility.

The first attack occurred on Wednesday, July 20. An officer on security rounds in a cell block noticed water on the floor just outside a cell. The officer approached the cell and questioned the inmate about the water on the floor. The inmate reached through the cell bars and struck the officer in the face with his fist. The officer retreated and called for assistance.

When additional staff arrived, the inmate was removed from the cell and was escorted to the infirmary for evaluation. In the infirmary elevator, the inmate lunged backwards with his head and struck an officer in the chin with the back of his head. He proceeded to kick staff before he was brought back under control and brought into the infirmary where he remained combative with staff.

Two officers and a sergeant were injured in the incident. The officer who was struck in the face, sustained redness and swelling under his eye. The officer who was struck in the chin from the backwards head butt, sustained pain and swelling to his chin. A sergeant sustained pain to his left shoulder and his hand while attempting to control the inmate in the infirmary.

All three were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

On Friday, July 22, cell doors were opened in a cell block for evening recreation. An officer approached a cell where an inmate remained inside. The inmate suddenly charged out of the cell when the officer approached and struck him in the face and grabbed the officer around the waist. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and attempted to push the inmate back into his cell. A second officer

responded and attempted to assist in getting the inmate under control. The inmate was able to break free and struck the second officer in the right eye.

During the ensuing struggle, both officers were able to break free from the inmate's grip and force him back into his cell and secure the cell door.

Both injured officers were relieved from the scene and were treated by the facility medical staff before being transported to Arnot Odgen Medical Center for further treatment. The first officer sustained bruising and pain to his bicep, right eye, cheek and pain to his lower back. The second officer sustained bruising and swelling to his right eye, jaw and hand.

Both officers did not return to duty.

The following day, an inmate who was returning to his cell suddenly attacked an officer in the cell block and struck him multiple times in the face. The officer quickly put the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still struggling, the officer was able to apply handcuffs to the inmate.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and removed from the cell block.

The injured officer was treated at the facility infirmary for knee and facial pain. He remained on duty.

The three inmates involved in the attacks all face disciplinary charges in the attacks.

“Unless the current disciplinary system that exists as a result of the HALT Act is strengthened to deter future attacks on staff, the violence will continue these historic levels. The simple fact is, this ridiculous legislation has had catastrophic effects on staff safety. The daily attacks on officers and the inmate on inmate violence will continue to rise until the legislators that supported this legislation realize they made a tremendous mistake passing this bill and all they have done is created a powder keg environment in every New York State prison while showing our members they could care less about their well-being. Those men and women, who are overworked and understaffed, deserve far better from those state representatives who supported the HALT Act” -stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.