



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

Inmate Violence Continues to Plague Elmira Correctional Facility

Staff Recover Two Weapons in Two Attacks

For Immediate Release

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Elmira, NY – Staff recovered a ceramic razor blade and a rock inside of a sock that were used in two separate inmate on inmate attacks at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

Both incidents occurred on Friday, August 19. The first fight occurred in the mess hall corridor. A sergeant observed one inmate, armed with a weighted black cloth, strike another inmate several times in the head. The two inmates began exchanging punches. Several orders were given to stop fighting, which were eventually complied to.

Staff recovered a black weighted sock from one of the inmates that had a large rock inside. The weapon was seized as evidence.

The injured inmate was taken to the infirmary where he was treated for a laceration to the forehead which was caused by getting struck by the weighted sock.

The second fight occurred in the fieldhouse during inmate recreation. An officer observed one inmate approached another and began attacking him, knocking him to the ground and defenseless. Approximately 10 inmates approached the fight, joined in, and began exchanging punches with each other. One officer observed one inmate making a slashing motion to the head of another inmate, with what appeared to be an unknown weapon. Several orders were given to the inmates to stop fighting but they were ignored.

Staff deployed gas into the fieldhouse and several officers on the ground administered OC spray to several inmates who refused to stop fighting. Order was shortly restored and the inmates were removed from the fieldhouse to be decontaminated and treated for their injuries.

One inmate sustained a large laceration to the back of his head and needed to be treated at an outside hospital. The wound was consistent with a weapon used.

Staff recovered a ceramic blade that was attached to the barrel of a pen. An officer observed the inmate drop the weapon after attacking the inmate. A search of inmate's cells did not recover any other contraband.

All inmates face internal disciplinary charges in both fights. One inmate was central to both conflicts. He is serving a life sentence after being convicted in Westchester County in 2014 for Murder 2nd and two counts of Attempted Murder 2nd. He and two other men committed a home invasion in which two men were killed and four other people, including a five year old, were shot.

No staff were injured in either incident.

"Last week DOCCS reported 41 assaults on staff, the highest number of assaults on staff since HALT went into effect on April 1. Since that time, there have been a dozen weeks in which assaults on staff exceeded 30 per week. Prior to HALT, those levels were never reached in the first three months of 2022. The reality is, the statistics tell the real story – that the HALT Act has been an epic failure and will continue to be until the legislators that supported this dangerous legislation wake up and take corrective action. Until they do, inmate on staff assaults and inmate on inmate assaults, like the two at Elmira Correctional Facility last week, will be a daily occurrence. If the disciplinary system was stronger, the one inmate involved in both attacks, would have not had the ability to be involved in the second assault. Eventually, someone is going to be killed unless something is done immediately."- stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.