



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

Three Attacks Occur at Elmira Correctional Facility

Inmate Attempts to Flush Cell Phone Down Cell Toilet in One Incident

For Immediate Release
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Elmira, NY – Six officers were injured during the first two weeks of December in three separate inmate attacks at the maximum security prison.

The first assault occurred on Friday, December 2. Staff ordered an inmate to exit his cell so the cell could be searched for contraband. The inmate refused and reached into a bucket, pulled out a cell phone and attempted to flush it down the toilet. Staff opened the cell door immediately and the inmate charged at one officer, pushing him backwards. He proceeded to punch a sergeant in the face before two officers grabbed him in a body hold and forced him to the cell block floor. Violently struggling with staff, the inmate attempted to get to his feet several times before being forced back to the ground by staff. Staff were able to apply handcuffs to the inmate's wrists. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The inmate was removed from the cell block and his cell was searched. The cell phone was recovered from the toilet and placed into evidence. No other contraband was located.

The sergeant who was punched in the face sustained pain and swelling to his cheek. He was treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, 36, is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2015 for Assault 1st. He faces internal disciplinary charges in the incident.

The second assault occurred on Tuesday, December 6. An inmate exited the mess hall after the evening meal with unauthorized food. An officer ordered the inmate to the wall to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. The inmate initially pushed off the wall and two officers forced him back. Again, he pushed off the wall, turned and struck one of the officers multiple times in the

face. The two officers grabbed him in a body hold and forced him to the ground. One the ground and still combative the officers applied handcuffs with the assistance of a third officer.

Once compliant, the inmate was brought to his feet and removed from the scene.

Three officers were injured in the attack. Two officers sustained wrist, knee and hand injuries subduing the inmate. The officer who was punched in the face sustained mouth, eye, neck and knee pain and swelling.

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

The inmate, 48, is serving 50 years to life after being convicted in Monroe County in 1995 for Murder 2nd. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit following the attack and faces internal disciplinary charges.

On Friday, December 9, two officers were injured subduing an inmate who elbowed an officer in the face while the officer was frisking the inmate for contraband. Staff were conducting random pat frisks when an officer ordered the inmate to the wall to submit to a frisk in the laundry corridor. Initially the inmate complied. Suddenly he came off the wall and elbowed the officer in the face. Two officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Once on the ground and in control, the inmate became compliant. He was removed from the corridor.

The inmate, 32, is serving his third stint in prison since 2008. He faces internal disciplinary charges in the incident.

Two officers sustained minor face, forearm and hand injuries. They both remained on duty.

"Most of the public has no idea that employees working in and entering the state correctional facilities are not allowed to bring in their cell phones. To have an inmate possessing one immediately makes this serious contraband and we commend the quick actions of our members. Contraband being found like this cell phone only reignites the need for body scanners in NYS prisons. Hopefully starting in January our elected leaders can start focusing on tools to make everyone safer inside the walls rather than the cost of items in the commissaries. You can add these six more members from Elmira to the yearly tally, injured at the hands of violent inmates who clearly know there are no real repercussions to their actions with the HALT Act firmly in place. There is an endless wave of issues that continue to threaten to safety of staff and until the State Legislature takes REAL action to address them this will continue into next year and beyond."
- stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.