



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Two Attacks Occur at Groveland Correctional Facility

Inmate On Suicide Watch Attacks and Injures Three Officers

For Immediate Release

December 20, 2022

Sonyea , NY – Five officers were injured in two separate inmate attacks at the medium security correctional facility last week.

On, Saturday, December 10, an officer was conducting observation of an inmate who was on suicide watch. The officer observed the inmate stand up and take a metal stool and begin to slam it against the cell wall. The officer ordered the inmate to stop and he refused. An infirmary officer responded to the incident and contacted a sergeant to respond to the infirmary. Both officers observed the inmate with an object in his hand as he began to make slashing motions to his wrist. A third officer responded and the cell door was opened. When the door was opened, the inmate charged at the officers, striking one officer in the eye. A response was called. The three officers administered OC spray to the inmate, which had no effect. The officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold as he continued to struggle and be combative.

The officers were able to apply handcuffs to the inmate and escort him from the cell as he continued to be uncooperative.

Staff searched the cell and recovered a metal security screw on the floor that was believed to have been in the inmate's hand when he was making slashing motions to his wrist.

Three officers were injured in the attack. One officer sustained small lacerations to his fingers and knuckles. He also had arm, hand and shoulder swelling with limited range of motion. He was

treated by facility medical staff and transported to Noyes Memorial Hospital for additional treatment. He has not returned to duty as a result of his injuries.

A second officer sustained pain to his shoulder and wrist. He remained on duty after being treated by facility medical staff. The third officer sustained shoulder pain and decreased range of motion. She was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The second attack occurred on Tuesday, December 13. An inmate was leaving the infirmary and was observed by an officer yelling and screaming. The officer ordered the inmate to return to the infirmary so he could interview the inmate. In the infirmary, the officer ordered the inmate to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. During the pat frisk, the inmate turned and punched the officer in left shoulder. The officer, with the assistance of another staff member, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, the two officers were able to apply handcuffs.

Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The two officers sustained shoulder and knee injuries. Both were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

“Here we are at the end of the year and the tally of our members attacked and injured at the hands of inmates continue to mount. We surpassed the all-time record two months ago and there clearly is no end in sight. As we can see here with the two attacks at Groveland, it doesn’t matter if the facility is a medium or maximum security facility. The attacks still occur regardless and staff are getting injured by inmates who know that with the ridiculous HALT Act in place there is little or no ramifications to their violent behavior. Just because our members do not work in the public’s eye doesn’t mean that nothing is happening in State prisons as certain legislators believe. When the legislative session begins in January the State Assembly and Senate need to immediately address HALT and the significant level of violence that has resulted because of this misguided legislation.” - stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.