



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Knocked Unconscious at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

One of Two Inmate Attacks Last Week

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2023

Ossining, NY – An officer was briefly knocked unconscious at the maximum security facility last week during one of two inmate on staff attacks as the violence continues to skyrocket in state facilities.

On Thursday, January 26, inmates were returning to the cell block from the mess hall. One inmate did not return directly to his cell. An officer approached him and ordered him to lock into his cell. The inmate immediately struck the officer in the face, briefly knocking him unconscious and causing the officer to fall backwards to the ground, striking his head on the floor.

Another officer in the vicinity witnessed the attack and responded to assist the fallen officer. The inmate charged at the female officer, striking her in the shoulder. The officer called for assistance before placing the inmate in a body hold and forcing him to the ground. On the ground, as additional staff arrived, the inmate became compliant and was placed in handcuffs. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to the Special Housing Unit infirmary for evaluation.

The injured officer was initially treated by facility medical staff and transported to Westchester Medical Center. He was treated for bruising and swelling to his face, a hematoma and small laceration to the back of his head. He was treated and released and did not return to duty.

The female officer who responded to the attack, was transported to Phelps Medical Center and treated for shoulder and hand injuries.

The inmate, 30, was transferred to Green Haven Correctional Facility after the attack. He is serving a 23 year sentence after being convicted in Bronx County in 2014 for Manslaughter 1st. He was convicted in connection with a random shooting of a man at a bus stop that left the man dead.

On the same day, an officer sustained minor injuries after an inmate attacked him outside the mess hall. During the afternoon meal, the inmate refused direction from the officer to sit at his assigned seat. The officer escorted the inmate outside the mess hall and ordered him to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. Initially, the inmate complied and put his hands on the wall. When the officer began to frisk the inmate, he pushed twice off the wall and elbowed the officer in the upper body. The officer was able to push the inmate back onto the wall and used body holds to force him to the ground.

On the ground, the inmate became compliant and was placed in handcuffs and removed from the hallway.

The officer sustained pain to his shoulder and chest and remained on duty after being treated by medical staff at the facility.

“Last year we saw record assaults and 2023 has already begun the same way 2022 ended. Members like the ones assaulted at Sing Sing don’t deserve to go to work just to be a human punching bag. There is little or no disciplinary measures left to deter inmates from attacking staff or other inmates as a result of the HALT Act. This pattern of violence is going to continue until the legislature realizes the utter failure of that legislation and they begin to take steps to improve the safety of staff. If they fail to do so, the violence is only going to get worse.” - Stated Dave Luther, NYSCOPBA Southern Region Vice President.