



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Inmate Violently Attacks Staff at Upstate Correctional Facility

Four Officers Treated at Local Hospital for Injuries

For Immediate Release

March 27, 2023

Malone, NY – An inmate, serving his second stint in state prison, viciously attacked staff inside his cell after officers entered the cell to check on his well-being last Tuesday at the maximum security correctional facility.

On March 21, an officer was assigned to a security watch outside the inmate’s cell in a Special Housing Unit. The officer was monitoring the inmate because of threats he made of self-harm.

The inmate put a towel on the cell door window so the officer couldn’t see inside the cell. The inmate refused several orders to remove the towel. The officer called for a staff response. After several failed attempts to get the inmate to remove the towel, the cell door was opened. The inmate immediately took an aggressive stance and charged the officers. An officer armed with a protective shield, pushed the inmate back towards the back of the cell. Six officers entered the cell and attempted to subdue the inmate with body holds. The inmate continued to be combative, striking and kicking several officers. He grabbed one officer in a headlock and struck him several times in both sides of the head and kned him in the ribs.

During the struggle, the inmate bit one officer on the shin and refused to release the bite. OC spray was administered three times with no effect. Force was utilized to get the inmate to release his bite. Staff applied handcuffs as the inmate continued to fight. Leg restraints were then applied. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant.

He was escorted from the cell and brought to the infirmary for evaluation.

Four officers were transported to Alice Hyde Medical Center for treatment. One officer for knee pain and deep abrasions from the bite to his shin. A second officer with jaw, eye, and forehead swelling and pain. A third officer with wrist and foot pain. The fourth officer with wrist, forearm and hand pain with limited movement of his fingers.

All four officers did not return to duty.

Two officers were treated by facility medical staff for knee, wrist, hand and elbow injuries. The officers remained on duty.

The inmate, 28, is serving a four year sentence after being convicted in Onondaga County in 2021 for Attempted Possession of a Weapon 2nd. He previously served a year in prison for drug possession in 2019.

“This was a vicious attack on staff that injured six officers and took several minutes to bring under control. The unfortunate reality is, the inmate, already in a Special Housing Unit for prior disciplinary charges, knows the discipline system carries little or no weight as a result of the HALT Act. Attacking staff leads to what amounts to a slap on the wrist. The only recourse left in situations like this, is for the Franklin County District Attorney’s Office to prosecute this inmate for felony assault. He is scheduled for mandatory release on his current conviction in two years. A strong message would be sent if he was charged and convicted in this attack that unprovoked assaults on staff will not be tolerated.” - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.