



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

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***“Keeping New York Safe”***

***Wende Correctional Facility Officers Injured in Inmate Attack***

*Three Officers Injured in Incident*

***Inmate Sets Tablet on Fire at Attica Correctional Facility, Sending  
Officer to the Hospital for Smoke Exposure***

**For Immediate Release**

**March 29, 2023**

**Alden, NY** - Three officers from Wende Correctional Facility were injured last Friday after an inmate attacked one officer while returning to his cell at the maximum security correctional facility.

At approximately 5:00 p.m., during the inmates' dinner run, an inmate was ordered to submit to a pat frisk for contraband after he was being disruptive during the escort. The inmate complied and the staff found no contraband. An officer ordered the inmate to return to his cell. Initially, he complied. As he returned to his cell, he turned and struck a second officer in the face.

The inmate was immediately placed in a body hold by staff and forced to the floor. The inmate continued to refuse orders and was combative on the ground. Staff were able to get the inmate's arms behind his back and place handcuffs on. Once handcuffs were applied, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted for a medical evaluation.

The officer who was initially attacked, sustained pain and swelling to his right eye and cheek. Two officers who assisted in subduing the inmate were injured as well. One officer injured her shoulder, elbow and had diminished strength to her hand. The second officer had swelling and abrasions to his right hand. All three officers were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, 41 is serving a 16 year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2019 for Manslaughter 1<sup>st</sup> and Assault 3<sup>rd</sup>. He faces disciplinary charges in the attack.

In an unrelated incident at Attica Correctional Facility, five officers and a sergeant sustained burning eyes, nose and throats after an inmate appears to have intentionally tampered with his tablet to set it on fire.

On Sunday, March 26, an officer noticed smoke coming from an inmate's cell. He called for a response and when staff arrived they observed the inmate inside the cell with his electronic tablet on the floor, smoldering and emitting smoke. The inmate was removed from the cell and staff entered and extinguished the tablet.

Four officers and the sergeant were treated at the infirmary for burning eyes, nose and throats. They all remained on duty. A fifth officer was transported to Erie County Medical Center after he had a hard time walking, developed disorientation, diminished hand strength and confusion after being exposed to the smoke.

"Three more officers injured after an inmate cannot follow simple staff directions. The amount of staff assaulted so far this year in New York as of the date of the Attica tablet incident is 330! That number is unacceptable, and continue to occur. It is a direct result of the ridiculous HALT Act. Three days from the one year anniversary of the implementation of HALT, we continue to point out the flawed legislation and it is evident that it has been a complete failure. Whatever positive changes the legislators who voted for HALT believed would happen, simply have not occurred. To the contrary, the only thing anyone entering and working in facilities like Wende and Attica are positive of is how unsafe they feel. Certain members of the legislature expect our members to keep them and the communities safe, yet completely turned their back on our safety and wellbeing." - stated, Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.