



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Staff Injured at Fishkill Correctional Facility

Officer Sustains Puncture Wounds After Being Bit By Inmate

For Immediate Release

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Fishkill , NY – Two sergeants and three officers were injured in an inmate attack which initially began in a facility mess hall and ended in one of the housing units after a lengthy foot chase through the medium security prison.

The incident occurred on Monday, April 10. During the lunch mess-hall run, staff observed an inmate stop at a random table while returning his food tray. He began yelling at other inmates sitting at the table. An officer approached the inmate and gave him direct orders to stop yelling. The inmate refused and continued yelling. The officer ordered the inmate to exit the mess hall, which he complied to, but continued to argue with the officer as they exited the room.

Outside the mess-hall, a second officer approached the inmate and asked to see the inmate’s identification card. He refused and suddenly punched the officer in the face. After the assault, the first officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the wall. The second officer administered one application of OC spray, which had no effect. The OC spray initially incapacitated the officer who had the inmate against the wall, causing him to release his hold. Once his hold was released, the inmate took off running down the hallway with staff in pursuit. The inmate continued running down several hallways and then proceeded to run through a housing unit, where officers briefly lost sight of him.

As additional staff arrived on the scene, they entered the housing unit to search for the inmate. The officer that was initially assaulted outside the mess-hall, located the inmate in the

phone room of the housing unit. The inmate was acting like he was on the phone to avoid detection. The officer ordered the inmate to exit the phone room. He refused and struck the officer a second time in the face. Additional staff entered the phone room and the inmate struck a second officer in the face. After the two assaults in the phone room, the inmate was able to exit the room and was confronted by one of the sergeants. He proceeded to strike the sergeant in the face. The sergeant, along with another supervisor and officer, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground, he remained extremely combative. As the two sergeants and officer attempted to get his arms behind his back, the inmate bit down on the officer's hand and refused to release his bite. OC spray was administered with no effect. During the continued struggle, the inmate eventually released his bite on the officer's hand but continued to kick at staff. Both his arms were eventually forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was removed from the housing unit and escorted to the infirmary for treatment.

Once treatment was complete, the inmate was transferred to Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

Injured staff were initially treated by medical at the facility. The officer who was bit sustained swelling and two puncture wounds to his finger. He was later treated at St. Luke's Emergency Room for exposure to bodily fluids and the puncture wounds.

The other four staff injured consisting of the two sergeants and two officers, were treated at the facility for hip, shoulder elbow, wrist, hand and facial injuries. After treatment, they remained on duty.

The inmate, 29, is serving a 12 year sentence after being convicted in 2017 in Kings County for Robbery 1st. That conviction was a result of a 2015 arrest after a gun point robbery of a DJ in a nightclub that led to a car chase and him shooting at the pursuit cars.

"This latest inmate attack that left three officers and two sergeants injured, certainly had all the elements that could have led to a much more violent conclusion for staff. The incident escalated quickly from a minor disturbance in the mess-hall, to an officer being assaulted and a long foot chase through the facility. It ended with additional staff assaults and injuries. The inmate, who was incarcerated for a violent robbery and shooting in New York City, was transferred to another facility after the incident. Removing him from Fishkill only amounts to a putting a Band-Aid on a much more serious wound. Unless he is prosecuted for felony assault, his discipline in this attack will amount to a slap on the wrist. Prior to April of 2022, assaults on staff were already at all-time records. Once the HALT Act was passed on April 1, it single handedly created the most extreme, unsafe environment for staff throughout the facilities in the state. What will need to occur for State Legislators to finally admit that the HALT Act is a complete failure? – Stated Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.