



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officer Injured During Inmate Attack at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Officer Struck with Fire Extinguisher in the Head

May 10, 2023

Rome, NY – A 34 year old inmate serving a second stint in state prison, attacked and struck an officer in the head with a metal fire extinguisher as the officer attempted to break up fight between two inmates at the medium security correctional facility last week.

On Tuesday, May 2, the officer was conducting routine rounds in one of the facility dorms when he witnessed two inmates fighting. The officer gave the inmates several orders to stop fighting and they complied. The officer stepped in between the two inmates to separate them, when one inmate grabbed a water can fire extinguisher and struck the officer in the back of the head, knocking him to the ground. The inmate began stomping on the officer’s arm so he couldn’t reach his OC spray. He began to kick and stomp on the officer’s body when a second officer arrived at the attack.

The inmate was still standing over the injured officer when the second officer administered OC spray. The initial application had no effect. The officer administered a second application, which caused the inmate to fall to the floor. With the inmate on the floor, the officer applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted to be decontaminated from the OC spray.

During decontamination, staff found a piece of glass with clear tape on one end for a handle in the inmate’s pants pocket. The weapon was seized as evidence.

The injured officer was treated at the facility and transported to St. Elizabeth’s Hospital for treatment. He sustained head, leg, lower back and arm injuries.

A search of the inmate’s living cube recovered a second weapon. Another piece of glass with a taped handle. He faces disciplinary charges in the attack.

The inmate is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted in 2020 in Oswego County for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 4th. Previously, he served a five year prison sentence after being convicted of Assault 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd in 2012.

“Yesterday we joined two dozen female correction officers who called for the end of HALT at the State Capitol, amid the rising sexual harassment and assaults they have endured at the hands of inmates. Several officers spoke candidly about the abuse they have endured from inmates, especially since the HALT Act was passed in April of 2022. The statistics speak for themselves, a 31 percent increase in violence against staff since HALT went into effect. A large group of bipartisan legislators joined us yesterday in support of those female officers. Hopefully the legislators who advocated for HALT begin to listen to their colleagues and begin to make meaningful changes to protect both the men and women whose safety is jeopardized every day they enter those facilities to work.” – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.