



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

---

***“Keeping New York Safe”***

***Violent, Unprovoked Attacks on Staff Continue at Elmira Correctional Facility***

***19 Officers Injured, Some Seriously over the Span of 10 Days***

***May 18, 2023***

**Elmira, NY** – A total of 19 officers were injured by inmates in three separate violent incidents at the maximum-security facility during a 10-day stretch in early May.

The first incident happened on May 1<sup>st</sup>, when an officer entered the cell of an unresponsive inmate. As the officer entered the cell to check on the inmate’s welfare, the inmate jumped to his feet and punched the officer in the face. Several other officers responded to the attack to assist. The officers used body holds to bring the still combative inmate to the floor and were able to place handcuffs on the inmate. As the inmate was being brought to facility medical for evaluation, he attempted to spit on staff.

The 26-year-old inmate is serving a two-year sentence for assault.

The four officers were also evaluated by medical staff, two found to have suffered minor injuries. All four officers remained on duty.

The second incident happened on May 4<sup>th</sup>, when during a routine officer pat frisk near the mess hall, an inmate punched an officer and slammed him to the ground. Numerous officers responded to the incident and found the inmate on top of the officer, attacking him. During the struggle, the inmate bit the arm of the downed officer, and continued to fight with other officers. Officers were finally able to gain control of the inmate’s arms and hands where they could place handcuffs on him. As the inmate was being assisted to his feet, he violently jerked and freed himself from the officers, and ran away. Another responding officer grabbed the fleeing inmate and brought him to the ground. Suddenly, a second inmate attacks that officer in

an effort to help the fleeing inmate. The second inmate fights with numerous responding officers, at one point putting an officer in a choke hold and refusing to release. Officers were able to break the chokehold grip and free the officer. Once they were able to gain control of the inmate's arms, handcuffs were applied, and the melee was over.

All told, eight officers were injured in the incidents, four were transported to Arnot Ogden Medical Center for treatment. Of those four, three officers were taken off duty. The remaining officers returned to full duty.

The 33-year-old inmate who initially attacked the frisking officer, is serving a 30-year sentence for manslaughter and criminal possession of a weapon after being convicted in 2012 for shooting and killing his neighbor on Long Island.

The third incident occurred on May 11<sup>th</sup>, as officers were collecting food trays in the Segregated Housing Unit, one of the inmates refused to remove his arm from the feed hatch so it could be closed and threw a cup of urine-smelling liquid at the officers, hit them in the legs. The inmate continued to refuse officer's orders to remove his arms from the hatch and threw several more cups of liquid at officers. After successfully moving the inmate to a different cell without incident, the inmate again became agitated and asked to see medical staff. As the inmate was being escorted to medical, he spit on the escorting officer and became combative towards staff, kicking at staff. Officers were able to gain control of the inmate's legs and bring the inmate to medical for an evaluation.

All staff were seen by medical, and nine officers suffered minor injuries in the five-hour ordeal. All officers remained on duty.

“When will the violence end? The current conditions the brave men and women of NYSCOPBA are enduring inside the walls and fences of our prisons are the worst in the State's history. At Elmira, we have nearly 20 officers injured at the hands of inmate attacks in the span of 10 days. Enough is enough. It's great that we can get Albany to celebrate inmates by holding graduation ceremonies during Correction Officer's Appreciate Week, but we can't get a majority of Democrats in the New York State Legislature to support repealing the HALT Act and restoring some semblance of accountability in the prison system. It's well-past time for the violence issue and staffing crisis to be properly addressed.” – **stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.**