



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Melee Occurs at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Inmate Attacks Staff, Stabs Sergeant

Sergeant and Four Officers Also Injured

For Immediate Release

July 2, 2023

Coxsackie , NY – A 20 year old inmate serving a five year sentence for weapons possession violently attacked staff in the Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU), stabbing a sergeant in the wrist with a make shift weapon and injuring five other staff members at the maximum security correctional facility this week.

On Tuesday, June 27, during a RRU program, an inmate was being removed from his program chair when he was able to manipulate one of his hands free from his handcuffs, approached another inmate and they began exchanging punches. The second inmate reached into his sock and pulled out an unknown item and began making stabbing motions at the first inmate. A sergeant came up from behind the first inmate and placed him in a body hold. The second inmate, still making stabbing motions, stabbed the sergeant in the wrist. The sergeant forced the first inmate to the wall and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant and he was removed from the program room.

While that occurred, the inmate armed with the weapon, was observed initially putting the weapon back into his sock. As staff approached, he quickly removed it and handed it off to another inmate who threw the weapon out the window into the yard. The inmate was removed by staff from the program room and brought to the draft room to be frisked for other contraband. He became disruptive and violent in the draft room and struck two officers in the face as they attempted to frisk him. He was placed in a body hold and forced to the ground. On the ground and still combative, he head butted one officer and kicked several other staff who attempted to get him under control.

Additional officers responded to the room to assist with the extremely violent inmate. As staff attempted to contain him and place him in handcuffs, he attempted to bite one officer and continued to kick at staff. After a brief struggle, his arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant.

The inmate who initiated the fight was treated by medical staff and sustained a laceration above his eyebrow. After treatment, he was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The inmate armed with the weapon was transferred to Great Meadow Correctional Facility after the attack. He is serving a five year sentence after being convicted in Kings County in 2022 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

Staff searched the yard outside of the RRU program room and located a sharpened toothbrush believed to be the inmate's weapon. A search of the his cell recovered the second part of the toothbrush. The weapons were seized as evidence.

Two sergeants and four officers were injured in the attack. The two sergeants and three officers were transported to Albany Medical Center for treatment. The sergeant who was stabbed, sustained a puncture wound to his wrist. Additional injuries to staff included, back, hip, knee, shoulder, ankle and facials injuries. They were treated at the hospital and did not return to duty.

One injured officer was treated by medical staff at the prison and remained on duty.

"Calling this a melee is an understatement. Sending two sergeants and three officers to the hospital with injuries from the attack clearly shows the level of violence that occurred on Tuesday. Thankfully, the sergeant only sustained a small puncture wound from the stabbing and no other staff were seriously injured. But, anytime you have an inmate armed with a weapon who is attacking staff, the circumstances can be much different. This inmate is serving a relatively short sentence for his crime, yet he cannot control himself and violently attacked staff who only attempted to break up an inmate on inmate fight. It is clear, like so many other inmates who attack staff, he couldn't abide by the rules of society and he can't abide by the rules inside the prison. If that doesn't paint a clear picture of the dangers our members have to deal with on a daily basis, I don't know what does!" - said, Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.