



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Inmate Fights, Weapons, Drug Overdose Plague Mohawk Correctional Facility

Officer Injured During Inmate Attack

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2023

Rome, NY – A seven day period ending this past Monday yielded several make-shift weapons, two inmate on inmate fights, one officer injured during an attempted assault and one inmate administered several applications of Narcan to revive him from an apparent overdose at the medium security correctional facility.

On Monday, July 17, officers recovered a ceramic knife from an inmate's shoe during a search of his cube. A K-9 alerted to the weapon and during the search, officers found the weapon hidden in the shoe.

The same day, unrelated to the weapon recovery, an officer observed two inmates exchanging punches to the head and body in the dayroom of the dorm. The two inmates ignored the officer's orders to stop fighting. He administered one application of OC spray, which had the desired effect, causing the inmates to cease fighting.

On Tuesday, July 18, staff conducted a dorm frisk for contraband. During the frisk, an officer witnessed an inmate throw an object under a bed. Two ice pick type weapons were recovered under the bed. As the search continued, a third ice pick type weapon was located under the locker of another inmate.

After the weapons were recovered, both inmates were placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

On Sunday, July 23, an officer injured his shoulder when an inmate attempted to assault him when he attempted to counsel the inmate. Initially, the inmate was observed going through the meal line a second time. When the inmate attempted to leave the mess hall, the officer attempted to counsel him. The inmate took an aggressive stance and swung at the officer, missing him. The officer administered OC spray, which had no effect. The inmate continued to

advance on the officer, who grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. He forced the inmate's arms behind his back and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The injured officer was treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit after the incident.

On Monday, July 24, during the evening meal, an officer witnessed an inmate approach another inmate who was sitting down at a mess hall table. The inmate punched the inmate in the head. The two inmates began to exchange punches. Ignoring orders to stop fighting, OC spray was administered with no effect. The officer administered OC spray a second time, which was effective, causing the inmates to stop fighting.

Both inmates were escorted out of the mess hall to be decontaminated.

The same day, an officer observed an inmate on his bed unresponsive. He called for a medical response. Medical staff arrived and administered multiple doses of Narcan. The inmate remained unresponsive. He was moved into the dayroom of the dorm where a fifth dose of Narcan was administered and was effective.

Once responsive, he was treated by medical staff and transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

"In one week's time, staff at Mohawk had their hands full with inmate fights, contraband, an overdose and an attempted attack on staff. The days where a medium security prison were relatively quiet with non-violent offenders is long over. They are just as dangerous as our maximum security prisons. Every day an officer comes to work they never know what they will encounter or how dangerous it may be. That type of work environment is extremely stressful for staff and they are stretched to their limits. I wonder if the legislators who supported and passed the HALT Act considered that when they voted for that absurd law. Clearly, either they don't care, or are clueless to what the atmosphere is like in a state prison." – stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.