



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

Surge in Violence Continues at Elmira Correctional Facility

Inmates Cut, Weapons Seized, Staff Assaulted at Facility

For Immediate Release

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Elmira, NY – Elmira Correctional Facility has become one of the most dangerous and violent correctional facilities in the state after another two week period of inmate on inmate assaults, multiple make-shift weapons seized and staff assaulted at the maximum security correctional facility.

During a two week period beginning on August 24 and ending on September 6, there were a reported 10 inmate on inmate fights which resulted in 12 inmates cut with make-shift weapons during the altercations and 18 weapons being seized by staff. In addition, 17 staff sustained minor injuries either by being attacked or injured when attempting to stop the fights.

The on-going violence follows a dozen inmate on inmate fights that left multiple inmates cut in July and August.

- On August 24, a three inmate on one inmate fight occurred after the morning meal that resulted in one inmate with two lacerations to his face. Two weapons, a metal razor blade and sharpened toothbrush, were located by officers after the fight was contained.
- On August 24, an inmate on inmate fight escalated when two other inmates joined in the fight in the recreation fieldhouse. Three inmates had multiple lacerations as a result of the fight, including one inmate that had a sharpened plastic shank sticking out of his head. Two weapons were recovered by staff. Two officers sustained minor injuries breaking up the fight.
- On August 27, one inmate sustained multiple cuts to the head and face during a fight with two other inmates after their mealtime lunch. No weapon was recovered.
- On August 29, two officers were injured after an inmate attacked one officer while being escorted back to his cell from recreation. The officer was punched in the right eye by the inmate. The second officer injured his hand assisting in stopping the attack.
- On August 30, two sharpened toothbrushes were recovered during a two inmate on one inmate fight after the morning meal. One inmate had one weapon in each hand and dropped them to the ground after staffed ordered him to drop the weapons.

- On August 30, two inmates sustained multiple lacerations during a fight in the cell block. A sharpened toothbrush and metal shank were recovered after staff were forced to use body holds to stop the two inmates from fighting.
- On September 1, an irate inmate approached two officers in the recreation yard with a broom handle. He broke the broom handle in two and had each weapon in each hand as he aggressively approached the officers. The two officers used body holds to force the inmate to the ground. The two broken broom handles were recovered. The officers were not injured in the incident.
- On September 2, a plastic shank was recovered after an inmate on inmate fight occurred.
- On September 3, three officers were injured when an inmate attacked them after they entered his cell when he barricaded himself in the cell and threatened to hurt himself. One officer went to a local hospital as a result of a hand injury.
- On September 3, four officers were injured after an inmate attacked them after he initially ran from staff who were attempting to pat frisk him for weapons. Two plastic shanks were located after the attack.
- On September 3, one inmate was cut in the face during an inmate fight. No weapon was recovered.
- On September 3, one inmate reported to an officer he was cut in the face with a weapon by an unknown inmate. Unrelated, on the same day, a plastic shank was recovered from an inmate during a pat frisk.
- On September 6, an inmate reported to an officer he was cut in the face during the morning meal. No weapon was recovered and the inmate could not identify his attacker.
- On September 6, a routine K9 search for weapons recovered a plastic shank on an inmate.
- On September 6, one inmate was cut to his neck during an inmate fight in the fieldhouse. During a search of one of the inmate's cells, staff recovered a plastic shank.
- On September 6, six officers sustained minor injuries breaking up a fight in the fieldhouse. Initially, the inmates ceased fighting after staff orders, but they ran and engaged again. OC spray was utilized with no effect. Body holds were used on the inmates to separate them and force them to the ground. On the ground, one inmate attempted to bite one of the officers but was unsuccessful. A plastic shank was recovered after the fight.

“The level of violence at Elmira has reached epic proportions this summer. The number of inmate on inmate fights, weapons seized, inmates cut and slashed and officers injured stopping the violence is unacceptable. It is truly amazing that during the violence that occurred in July, August and September, that no staff received a serious injury or were stabbed stopping all the violence. It is incomprehensible that our State Legislators, who supported the HALT Act, can sit back and hear about all this occurring and not take one step to address it. Their silence on the ongoing violence is deafening. They truly have turned their backs on the men and women that serve their community every day in our prisons and that is despicable!” - stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.