



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Four Officers Sent to Local Hospital After Attacks at Elmira Correctional Facility

In All, Fifteen Officers and One Sergeant Injured

For Immediate Release

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Elmira, NY – Fifteen officers and one sergeant were injured in a twelve day period in October at the maximum security correctional facility as extreme violence continues to exist as we enter the last three months of the year. The latest series of attacks on staff sent four of the injured officers to local hospitals for treatment of their injuries, including one who sustained a concussion.

With no end in sight to inmate on staff and inmate on inmate assaults, Elmira continues to be one of the most active and violent prisons in the state.

Between Friday, October 6 and Tuesday, October 17, the following assaults on staff occurred:

- One officer needed to be treated at Arnot Ogden Medical Center for rib injuries after an inmate struck him several times with a medically issued walking cane. The inmate, serving his third stint in state prison, two for felony assault convictions, struck the officer when he refused the officer's orders to lock into his cell after the morning meal. When the officer approached the inmate, he struck him several times in the side of the body. The inmate was forced to the floor with body holds by staff and placed in handcuffs. After the attack, the inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit.
- Two officers were injured after an inmate attacked them following a pat frisk in which the inmate dropped a balloon from his pants that contained a green leafy substance. When the officer attempted to retrieve the balloon from the ground, the inmate unsuccessfully attempted to punch him in the head. A second officer responded

and was struck several times in the head when he forced the inmate to the wall and was pulled to the ground by the inmate, where the attack continued. The inmate attempted to flee the frisk room after the attack and fell down a set of stairs before additional staff subdued him. One of the injured officers was transported to Arnot Ogden Medical Center and was treated for a concussion.

- Two officers were injured when they entered an inmate's cell after he threatened to kill himself. Initially, during security rounds, one of the officers observed the inmate acting erratically. He had his bed frame up on one end and up against the cell door, partially blocking staff's view. The inmate indicated he wanted to hurt himself. When the two officers entered to cell to prevent the inmate from harming himself, he attacked both officers. During the attack, one officer sustained rib injuries and the second officer sustained hand and facial injuries. The inmate was forced to the ground in body holds and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate was removed from the cell and escorted to the infirmary. The officer with rib injuries was transported to Arnot Odgen Medical Center for further treatment.
- One officer sustained facial injuries after he attempted to break up a fight between two inmates in the day room of the facility. Initially, the officer observed the two inmates exchanging punches. The two continued fighting and ignored all orders. When the officer approached the inmates, one struck him in the side of the face. Immediately after assaulting the officer, both inmates dropped to the ground and became compliant.
- Three officers and a sergeant sustained injuries after they entered an inmate's cell after he began destroying items inside the cell and ignored orders to stop. Initially, the inmate was throwing toilet water and feces out of the cell onto the cell block floor. He then began destroying the cell contents. He ripped the toilet from the wall and used it as a weapon as an extraction team entered the cell after chemical agents introduced into the cell were ineffective. The first officer to enter the cell armed with a protective shield was struck in the head with the metal toilet by the inmate. A second officer armed with a shield was able to push the inmate to the back of the cell wall and he was placed in body holds and forced to the ground where he remained combative. His arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate was escorted to be decontaminated. He is currently serving his third stint in state prison. The three officers and sergeant were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.
- Two officers were injured after an inmate attacked an officer in the rear of the kitchen. The inmate approached the officer and struck him once in the face. A second

officer who witnessed the attack, responded and both officers placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground and still combative, handcuffs were applied. The officer initially assaulted sustained face swelling and back pain. The second officer sustained a shoulder injury subduing the inmate.

- Three officers were injured after an inmate was being frisked for contraband and spun off the wall and elbowed one of the officers in the head. The inmate was placed in a body hold by two officers and forced to the ground. On the ground and extremely combative, a third officer responded and assisted in applying handcuffs to the inmate. One of the injured officers was transported to Corning Guthrie Medical Center with numbness to his hand and fingers.
- During morning breakfast at the facility, an inmate approached an officer and immediately struck the officer in the left eye with a closed fist. The officer administered OC spray, which was ineffective. With the assistance of a second officer, the inmate was placed in a body hold and forced to the floor. Once on the floor, handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant. The officer attacked sustained facial pain and swelling. He was treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

“At this point, we are at a loss for words about the on-going violence at Elmira. There is certainly no end in sight and having fifteen officers and one sergeant injured in a twelve day period is simply unacceptable. In two of the attacks reported, the inmates simply walked up the officers who were performing their regular duties, and began striking them in the face. It is beyond comprehension that as we report these vicious unprovoked attacks on a daily basis, that our State Legislators continue to ignore the violence that exists because of their actions. It is time for the proponents of the HALT Act to stand up and be accountable and admit that this ridiculous legislation has been a disastrous failure and it needs to be at very least amended but should be repealed in the upcoming legislative session. If they fail to address the violence, they are basically endorsing inmate attacks on staff and that continues to tell the men and woman that work at Elmira and all facilities across the state that they could care less if someone died inside the walls and fences!” - Stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.