



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Six Officers, Sergeant Injured After Attacks at Elmira Correctional Facility

Two Officers Transported to Local Hospital for Injuries

For Immediate Release

November 16, 2023

Elmira, NY – Six officers and one sergeant were injured in on-going inmate violence that has plagued the maximum security correctional facility for well over a year.

During a seven day period last week, there were six violent incidents which injured staff and included two inmate on inmate fights where weapons were used to cut inmates during the fights.

- On Friday, November 3rd, one officer sustained facial, knee and elbow injuries after an inmate suddenly attacked him during an escort to the infirmary. During the escort, the inmate turned and struck the officer with multiple punches to the face. The officer ordered the inmate to get to the ground, which he refused. He charged the officer and grabbed him by his uniform shirt. The officer placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground, the inmate became compliant and was placed in handcuffs. The officer was treated for his injuries by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty. The inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit following the attack.
- On Wednesday, November 8th, three officers were injured after an inmate came off the wall during a pat frisk and struck one of the officers multiple times in the ribs. Initially, the officer observed the inmate passing items to other inmates on the cell block. The inmate was ordered to submit to a pat frisk for contraband just prior to the attack. Two officers responded to the attack and attempted to subdue the inmate who continued to fight violently. The three officers together were able to contain the inmate and force his arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, he became compliant. He was placed in a cell where he later was observed putting his t-shirt around his neck and threatening to hurt himself. An officer entered the cell to stop him from hurting himself and the inmate charged him. OC spray was administered, which was effective and stopped the attack.

- On Wednesday, November 8th, officers in the recreation yard observed six inmates fighting with four other inmates. One officer observed one inmate swinging a weighted tube sock during the fight. Initially, the inmates ignored orders to cease fighting. A response was called and when additional staff arrived in the yard the inmates stopped fighting. They were removed from the yard and taken to the infirmary for evaluation. One inmate sustained multiple lacerations to his face and neck that were consistent with a cutting weapon. Staff recovered the weighted sock, which was filled with rocks. Two sharpened toothbrushes were also located in the yard by staff after a search was conducted.
- On Thursday, November 9th, two officers and a sergeant were injured after an inmate attacked staff after he was ordered back into his cell for refusing to produce his identification. Initially, inmates in the cell block were being let out for recreation. The inmate was ordered to produce his identification by staff. He refused and was ordered back into his cell. He attempted to strike one of the officers several times but was unsuccessful. The two officers placed the inmate in a body hold and attempted to force him to the ground. The inmate pushed rearward, forcing the inmates to fall down the cell block stairs to the landing. A sergeant responded to the landing to assist the two officers. The inmate kicked the sergeant in the knee before he was brought under control. He was placed in handcuffs and removed from the cell block. The two officers were transported to Arnot Ogden Medical Center for hand, elbow and lower back injuries. The sergeant was treated at the facility for pain and swelling to his knee and remained on duty.
- The last incident occurred on Thursday, November 9th. Officers assigned to the fieldhouse during recreation observed two inmates fighting and exchanging punches. They gave several orders for the inmates to stop but they refused. Once additional staff arrived, the inmates became compliant. One inmate had several lacerations to the right side of his face and his neck and needed to be transported to an outside hospital for treatment. During the investigation, it was determined a third inmate joined in the fight and cut the inmate. During questioning, the inmate admitted to the assault and turned over a sharpened toothbrush he had hidden in

“The violence at Elmira Correctional Facility continues at levels we have never seen before. If it isn’t an inmate attacking and injuring staff, it is multiple inmates fighting and armed with make-shift weapons. Last month we said it was beyond comprehension that as we report these vicious unprovoked attacks daily, our State Legislators continue to ignore the violence. That certainly has not changed. How could we possibly expect them to protect the hard working men and women that work in these dangerous prisons every day then? Their ignorance is going to get someone killed, certain legislators don’t even care!” stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.