



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officers Injured at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Two Weapons Also Recovered by Staff

For Immediate Release

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Rome, NY – Two female officers were injured after being attacked by two inmates in separate incidents at the medium security correctional facility. Staff also recovered two make-shift weapons from inmates during two pat frisks at the facility last week.

On Thursday, January 25, an officer positioned at the officer’s station in one of the dorms observed an inmate yelling and screaming in the day room and throwing objects from one of the tables. He ignored her orders to stop. The officer called for a staff response as the inmate continued to be disruptive. The inmate approached the officer station and charged at the officer, grabbing her by the jacket and forcing her backwards, pinning her against the back of the station. The officer was able to break the inmate’s hold and push him backwards. Another officer arrived at the scene and forced the inmate’s arms behind his back and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

It was determined that the inmate was intoxicated on an unknown substance during the attack. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The officer sustained neck and shoulder pain and was treated at the facility. She remained on duty.

The second assault occurred on Wednesday, January 31. An inmate approached the officer at the officer station and was yelling and screaming at her. Ignoring orders to stop, the inmate charge the officer and struck her in the shoulder. She called for a staff response and pushed the inmate backward, causing him to fall on the floor. The inmate got up from the floor and charged again. The officer applied two rounds of OC spray, which had no effect. A sergeant

arrived at the dorm and immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. On the floor and still combative, handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to a Special Housing Unit.

The officer sustained a minor shoulder injury and was treated by medical staff at the facility.

In addition to the two assaults, staff also recovered a ceramic blade and an ice pick type weapon from two inmates during two pat frisks last week. The two weapons were recovered when staff ordered the two inmates to submit to a pat frisk as they were entering two mess halls at the facility. The ceramic blade was recovered from the mess hall floor after the inmate spit it out during the pat frisk. The ice pick type weapon was recovered from the grass just outside the entrance of the mess hall after the inmate threw the weapon to the ground. The weapons were seized as evidence.

Both inmates were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges.

“As we face the possibility of up to five prisons closed in the next 90 days, the violence and contraband continue to be a problem in our correctional facilities. The violence is not going to stop by “Right-Sizing” the system as the State claims. It can be reduced by adding additional staff, providing more resources and establishing a disciplinary system that deters inmates from attacking staff or other inmates. Until that occurs, staff will have to work in an environment where their safety is threatened every day. That is a system that can’t be sustained and will continue to get worse before it gets better.” – Stated Bryan Hluska, NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President.