



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Two Officers Assaulted at Upstate Correctional Facility

Inmates Attack Officers During Two Pat Frisks for Contraband

For Immediate Release

February 7, 2024

Malone, NY – Two officers were attacked in separate incidents last week when two inmates suddenly punched the two officers in the face when they attempted to frisk them for contraband at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Thursday, February 1, an officer who was assigned to security in the recreation yard, ordered an inmate to submit to a pat frisk and to place his hands on the wall. As the inmate approached the wall, he suddenly spun and punched the officer in the nose and mouth. Four officers in the yard immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. On the ground, handcuffs were applied. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted out of the yard.

The injured officer sustained abrasions to his nose, lip, hand and knee. He remained on duty after being treated by facility medical personnel. A second officer sustained a minor leg injury helping subdue the inmate.

The inmate, 23, was placed in a Special Housing Unit following the attack. He is serving a seven year sentence after being convicted in Queens County for Assault 1st in 2023.

The second assault occurred on Friday, February 2. An officer assigned to the gymnasium ordered an inmate to submit to a pat frisk. As the inmate was near the wall, he spun and punched the officer in the head. The officer, along with a second officer, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the gymnasium floor. On the floor, they applied handcuffs and escorted the inmate out of the gym.

The injured officer sustained bruising and swelling to his face. He was treated by medical staff and remained on duty.

The inmate, 34, is serving his second stint in state prison. He currently is serving a eight year sentence after being convicted in Monroe County in 2023 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd and Assault 2nd. Previously, he completed a one to three year sentence in 2012 for Burglary 1st and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd.

“With prison closures looming in the coming months, the attacks on staff continue at record levels. The announcement last month that up to five prisons could be closed in 90 days is another example of the State putting a band aid on a much larger problem. Nine prisons were closed in the last three years and they clearly have not “Right-Sized” the system. Assaults on staff increased by 13 percent last year after increasing by 31 percent following the implementation of the HALT Act. The reality is, without a disciplinary system that deters attacks on staff and other inmates in place, these staggering number of assaults are going to continue. The picture is very clear, yet our elected officials fail to see it.” - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.