



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Multiple Incidents Occur at Five Points Correctional Facility

Staff Injured, Make-Shift Weapons Recovered

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY – Seven officer’s sustained injuries in multiple incidents in January and February at the maximum security correctional facility, including one officer who had to be transported to a local hospital for a head injury.

- On Thursday, January 4, two inmates sustained lacerations during a fight that occurred on one of the facility cell blocks. After a meal run was completed, officers observed an inmate exit his cell and run down the cell block and enter the cell of another inmate. The two inmates began fighting and were making slashing motions at each other as staff responded. The fight spilled outside the cell. When the inmates refused orders to stop fighting, an officer was going to utilize OC spray when one of the inmates knocked it out of the officer’s hand. Staff were able to separate the two inmates. One of the inmates attempted to pick up the OC spray canister from the floor and was grabbed in a body hold and forced to the wall. When additional staff arrived, the fight was contained and the inmates were placed in handcuffs and brought to the infirmary for evaluation. Officers recovered a metal shank that the first inmate threw into a cell as staff broke up the fight. A second plastic shank was found hidden in his mattress inside his cell during a search. One officer sustained a minor abrasion to the arm in the incident.
- The same day, in an unrelated incident, an officer who was collecting food trays from inmates had liquid that smelled of urine thrown at him by an inmate from inside his cell, striking him in the chest, face and eyes. After the incident, the inmate claimed he was

suicidal and refused to leave his cell. A cell extraction team responded and chemical agents were utilized and the inmate exited the cell without further incident. He was brought to the infirmary for evaluation. The officer was treated for exposure at the infirmary and remained on duty.

- On Sunday, January 14, an officer sustained a neck injury after an inmate attacked him during an escort from the kitchen. Initially, the inmate was being escorted for being argumentative with staff. During the escort, the inmate grabbed the officer by the neck and shoved him. OC spray was utilized with no effect initially. A second round was administered and had the desired effect. The inmate became compliant and was handcuffed and placed in a Special Housing Unit. The injured officer was treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.
- On Wednesday, January 17, two officers had an unknown liquid thrown on them, striking both in the chest and face. The officers had approached the inmate's cell when he propelled the liquid out of the cell door hatch striking both officers.
- On Tuesday, February 13, two officers were slightly injured when an inmate triggered a metal detector coming back from the vocational area and spun off the wall and punched an officer in the face as staff were attempting to frisk him for contraband. After the initial assault, the inmate was forced back up against the wall. He reached into his pocket and swallowed an unknown item. When he was forced to the wall, the inmate attempted to head butt an officer and continued to be combative. He was grabbed in a body hold and forced to the ground. The inmate fell on top of an officer and bit down on the officer's hand, refusing to release the bite. When additional staff arrived, the inmate's arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to a Special Housing Unit. Two officers sustained hand, foot and forehead injuries. They were treated at the facility and remained on duty.
- On Thursday, February 15, two officers were conducting rounds and observed an inmate on the phone after his time allotment. He was ordered off the phone and he refused. The two officers approached him and one officer attempted to grab the phone out of the inmate's hand. The inmate immediately struck the officer in the face. He was grabbed in a body hold and forced to the floor. One of the officers fell to the floor with the inmate, striking his head against the ground as the inmate fell on top of him. The inmate attempted to put his arm around the officer's neck. When additional staff responded to the attack, the inmate attempted to bite several of them as they attempted to contain him and pull him off the officer. With additional staff, handcuffs and leg restraints were eventually applied. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant. Two officers sustained hand and forehead abrasions and were treated at the facility. The officer who fell and struck the back of his head on the floor sustained head

and facial injuries with dizziness. He was transported to Cayuga Medical Center for additional treatment.

“There are very little professions in which employees can get attacked, break up fights with weapons and have bodily fluids thrown on in a little over a month’s time. This is just a brief glimpse into what our members face every day at our state prisons. Like our law enforcement brothers and sisters that patrol our streets keeping our communities safe, it is very rare that our members receive the recognition for the dangerous job they perform day in and day out. The corrections profession has never been more dangerous with the record levels of violence occurring every single day. In one of the incidents mentioned here, the inmate is scheduled for release in September and he blatantly disregards that and attacks and injures three officers who simply gave him an order to get off the phone. Thankfully, the officer who struck his head in the incident didn’t sustain a more serious injury. The next time, and there will be a next time that might not be the case. It is abundantly clear that the system is failing anyone who wears blue pants and until the legislature wakes up and realizes it, this carnage will continue.”- Stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.