



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Multiple Officers Injured at Auburn Correctional Facility

One Officer Sustains Orbital Fracture

For Immediate Release

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Auburn , NY – Eight officers were injured at the maximum security correctional facility on Sunday after two inmates attacked staff in separate incidents in the mess halls of the prison.

The first attack occurred during the morning meal in the mess hall. An officer ordered an inmate to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. The inmate became argumentative and combative with the officer. The officer placed the inmate in a body hold and initially forced him against the wall. The inmate was able to twist around and punched the officer in the left side of the face. After the initial attack, another officer responded and attempted to force the inmate to the floor with a body hold but was unsuccessful. Two additional officers arrived and forced the inmate to the ground, with all four officers falling to the floor. On the ground and still extremely combative, the officers were able to force both arms behind the inmate's back. Handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant and all force ceased. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted to a Special Housing Unit.

Four officers sustained injuries subduing the inmate. They were treated at the facility for chest, back, head, and shoulder and knee injuries. They all remained on duty.

The officer who was initially assaulted, sustained eye, cheek, mouth and knee injuries. He was transported to Auburn Community Hospital where it was determined he sustained a fracture of the orbital bone. He did not return to duty, and is still out of work.

A search of the inmate's cell recovered a sharpened steal nail hidden inside a roll of toilet paper. It was taken as evidence.

The inmate, 31, is serving a 25 years to life sentence after being convicted of Murder 2nd and Criminal Possession- of a Weapon 2nd in 2014. He was convicted, along with his brother, in the shooting death of a South Carolina man in Syracuse in 2012.

The second assault occurred after the afternoon meal at the facility. An inmate who was being disruptive in the mess hall, was ordered to leave and was escorted out of the mess hall in handcuffs. He was placed in a holding cell while his cell was searched for contraband by staff. While in the holding cell, an officer removed the inmate's handcuffs. Once his hands were free, the inmate immediately attacked the officer, striking him in the jaw. The officer forced the inmate to the wall. The inmate pushed back off the wall and spit in the officer's face. Additional staff entered the holding cell and forced the inmate to the floor with body holds. The inmate continued to fight with staff on the ground until handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. He was escorted out of the holding cell and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Three officers were injured in the incident. The officer who was initially assaulted, sustained elbow, face, jaw and finger injuries. Two officers sustained hand and knee injuries subduing the inmate. All three were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The search of the inmate's cell recovered a sharpened toothbrush, which was placed into evidence.

The inmate, 28, is serving his second stint in state prison. He is currently serving a 10 year sentence after being convicted in 2023 for Robbery 1st and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd. Previously, he served a two year sentence after being convicted of Attempted Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd in 2019 in New York County.

"Add another eight officers injured at the hands of inmates to the growing number of assaults in 2024. Currently, we are on pace to exceed 2200 assaults on staff, which would be an increase of over 30 percent from the previous record year! There is no end in sight to the violence and it will continue with the inaction of the State Legislature to adequately address the violence as they are more worried about the individuals that don't pay taxes rather than the taxpayers that serve their communities. Our members have literally turned into punching bags for the inmates. Attacks like these two at Auburn over the weekend are common place around prisons across the state. It is mind boggling that certain elected officials who pretend to be our leaders, fail to act to protect these brave men and women who work behind those walls. Already pushed the brink with mandatory overtime, staffing shortages, inadequate compensation and record levels of violence, it is truly amazing that staff continue to handle themselves professionally and show up to work each day. It is far more than we can say about our legislators who created this mess!" – stated, Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President