



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Four Officers Injured at Cayuga Correctional Facility

Three Officers Sustain Significant Blood Exposure From Inmate

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2024

Cayuga, NY – A thirty six year old inmate serving a 20 year sentence for manslaughter covered up his cell window forcing staff to enter the cell to check on his well-being and when they did, the inmate attacked the officers and eventually spit blood on three officers as the attempted to get him under control at the medium security correctional facility.

The inmate was housed in a Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) for previous disciplinary charges on March 30. An officer making routine rounds, observed the cell window covered over. The inmate was given multiple orders to respond and uncover the window. The inmate remained unresponsive. A response was called and the cell door was opened. As staff entered the cell, the inmate charged at them from the shower. An officer armed with a shield, pushed the inmate back against the wall. Three officers utilized body holds to force the inmate to the ground as he remained extremely combative. He bit one officer on the thumb and elbowed a second officer in the stomach. Staff contained his legs as his arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted out of the cell to a holding pen.

During the escort, the inmate spit saliva with blood in it at one officer, striking him in the nose and mouth.

The inmate continued to be resistant during the escort and spit blood again striking a second officer in the face and eye. When officers arrived at the holding pen, the inmate was placed inside. The inmate used his bloody finger to forcefully insert it into one of the officers mouth before being forced to the wall. Leg restraints were applied and once in full restraints, the inmate became compliant.

The three officers who sustained blood exposure were treated at the facility and it was deemed their exposure was significant. They were transported to Cortland Medical Center for treatment.

The officers also sustained thumb, shoulder, and facial pain and swelling. The officers were treated at the medical center and returned to duty.

A fourth officer sustained hand and finger injuries subduing the inmate. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate is serving a 20 year sentence after being convicted in 2009 in Erie County for Manslaughter 1st. He was convicted in the beating death of a 15 year old. He was transferred to Auburn Correctional Facility after the incident.

“The attack at Cayuga highlights the wide variety of dangers officers face every day during encounters with inmates. The blood exposure that the three officers sustained by the despicable act of spitting blood on them was significant and thankfully they received immediate treatment for the exposure and their other injuries. Compounding the attack, was the fact that the inmate was already in a Residential Rehabilitation Unit for previous discipline charges and clearly baited the officers to enter the cell with the clear intent on attacking them. I can only wonder how the legislators who supported the HALT Act and continue to advocate for the inmates would feel if they got blood spit in their mouth and eyes? Maybe if they did, they would have a better appreciation for the job our members do daily, and would advocate for protecting us rather than the felons!” -stated Kenny Gold , NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.