



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Eleven Officers, Two Sergeants Injured at Five Points Correctional Facility

Violence Continues to Surge at Prison

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY – After eleven officers were injured last month at the maximum security correctional facility, thirteen more staff were reported injured in five separate incidents in March and early April.

- On Thursday, March 7, an officer was punched in the torso when he attempted to break up a fight between three inmates. As inmates were returning to their cells from the mess hall, the three inmates began exchanging punches and ignored the officer’s orders to cease. The officer approached the inmates and was inadvertently struck by one inmate when he attempted to attack another inmate. He administered OC spray, which had no effect, so the officer administered a second round of OC spray, which had the desired effect and the inmates stopped fighting. They were handcuffed and returned to their cells. The officer was treated for pain to his upper torso and hand. He was treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.
- On Saturday, March 9, three officers and two sergeants were injured after an inmate attacked them during a pat frisk for contraband. The inmate was initially being escorted out of the mess hall to return to the cell block. He was ordered to submit to a pat frisk. He turned off the wall and became aggressive. The officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor. On the floor and still combative, the inmate kicked one officer in the face. Once the inmate was contained, he was brought to his feet and was escorted to a holding pen. During the escort, the inmate continued to be combative and fight with officers. When officers forced the inmate into the holding pen, they needed to use body holds to control the inmate as he continued to fight. Two officers and two sergeants sustained knee, face and shoulder injuries. They were treated at the facility and remained on duty. The third officer sustained neck, elbow and shoulder injuries and was transported to Geneva Hospital for treatment.

- On Monday, March 11, a three man inmate fight in the mess hall injured four officers who responded to the fight and brought the fight under control. During the fight, a fourth inmate re-entered the mess hall and attempted to get into the fight. Staff utilized body holds and forced him to the floor and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. A fifth inmate jumped over a railing attempting to enter the fight and landed on an officer's back. The inmate initially ran off and then attempted to punch one of the officers who approached him. He was placed in a body hold and forced to the ground and handcuffs were applied. Once the fight was contained, the inmates were escorted from the mess hall and returned to their cells. The four injured officers were treated by medical staff at the facility for shoulder and hand injuries. They all remained on duty.
- On Thursday, March 21, an officer was struck with a clear liquid that was thrown from a paper cup by an inmate inside his cell. The officer was struck in the chest, face and lower pants. The officer was treated at the infirmary for exposure and remained on duty.
- On Tuesday, April 9, two officers were injured when an inmate in a Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU) attacked them inside his cell as the officers were attempting to remove him from the cell. Initially, the inmate was placed in handcuffs and became argumentative with staff. As officers were attempting to escort the inmate out of the cell, he became combative and pulled one of the officers back into the cell. The two officers placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Still combative on the ground, the inmate kicked one of the officers in the forehead. Additional staff arrived at the cell and assisted in applying leg restraints. The inmate continued to attempt to kick and spit on staff. He was brought to his feet and removed from the cell and all force ceased. One officer sustained pain to his forehead from being kicked and a small laceration to his finger. The second officer sustained pain and head swelling. Both officers were treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

“The staff injury count continues to mount at Five Points as we now have two dozen officers injured in the month of March and early April as a result of inmate attacks. They continue to happen in units created by the HALT Act. As we sit by waiting to learn how many prisons will be closed once the state budget is finalized, the violence continues at record levels and continues to be ignored by our elected officials. It is unconscionable that they continue to ignore the violence, caused by the HALT act, low staffing levels and difficulty recruiting new officers. At one point, a career in law enforcement was highly sought after. The system has completely turned upside down and our members suffer daily as a result of the actions of a majority of mostly downstate legislators who advocate for the inmates!”-stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.