



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

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## *“Keeping New York Safe”*

### ***Three Officers, Sergeant Injured After Attacks at Elmira Correctional Facility***

*Sergeant Sustains Fractured Hand, Officer Fractures Heel*

**For Immediate Release**

**April 22, 2024**

**Elmira, NY** – Three officers and a sergeant were injured when an inmate attacked them after staff broke up an inmate on inmate fight in the stairway of the maximum security correctional facility.

On Monday, April 15, inmates were let out of morning programs and were heading back to their respective cells. An officer observed two inmates fighting in the stairwell leading up to the cell block. Several orders were given to the inmates to cease fighting and eventually they complied. The inmates were instructed to return to their cells. One inmate complied and returned to his cell. The second inmate refused all staff orders to return to his cell. As staff approached him, he began to run up the stairs. An officer confronted him and the inmate lunged at the officer, striking him, causing the officer to fall down the stairs with the inmate falling on top of the officer. The inmate attempted to stand up and was grabbed in a body hold by two responding officers and was forced to the floor. On the floor and extremely combative, the inmate struck one officer in the face and bit the second officer in the back. During the struggle, a third officer was able to force handcuffs on the inmate in front of his body.

Still combative, the inmate was brought to his feet. A sergeant responded to the incident and approached the inmate. The inmate, while still in handcuffs, struck the sergeant in the face. He was placed in body holds again and forced to the floor. Once on the floor, he became compliant. He was brought to his feet and escorted from the cell block.

The three injured officers and sergeant were treated initially by medical staff at the facility. One officer was transported to Arnot Ogden Medical Center and treated for a fractured heel. The officer who was bit on the back was transported to Guthrie Medical Center and treated for a laceration to his lip and knee and shoulder injuries. The sergeant was transported to Guthrie Medical Center and treated for abrasions to his head and face and a fractured metacarpal bone in his hand.

The third officer injured was treated at the facility for abrasions to his forearm and knee pain. He remained on duty.

The inmate, 34, is serving a 12 to 15 year sentence after being convicted for Arson 2<sup>nd</sup> and Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2017 in Erie County. He was transferred to Five Points Correctional Facility after the attack.

The State Police BCI were notified and responded to the prison to investigate the attack.

Unrelated to the April 15<sup>th</sup> attack, two inmates were cut with an unknown weapon during a five inmate on inmate fight in the fieldhouse during recreation on Friday, April 12. Officers assigned to the fieldhouse witnessed the three on two fight and gave multiple orders to stop. Ignoring the orders, the inmates continued to fight. Chemical agents were introduced into the area of the fighting inmates and it had the desired effect. The inmates stopped fighting and went to the ground. They were escorted out of the fieldhouse to be decontaminated. Two inmates sustained lacerations to their face that were consistent with a cutting style weapon. The inmates were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges after being treated for their injuries.

A search of the fieldhouse and the inmates' cells did not recover any weapons.

“The violence at Elmira Correctional Facility is well documented and continues at historic levels. This latest attack leaves an officer and supervisor undoubtedly out of work while recovering from their injuries at a time when staffing levels are already at an all-time low across the state. As we await for the hammer to fall with more prison closures, as legislators think somehow that’s an answer, there is no relief in sight. All additional prisons closures will do is increase the inmate population, who are already extremely violent, in other facilities and put an unfair burden on staff who are already stretched to the limit with mandatory overtime and reduced staffing levels. If ever there was a week in which our elected officials should wake up and begin to show real support to law enforcement it certainly should be this one with losing a Syracuse Police Officer and Onondaga County Sheriff’s Lieutenant to a senseless shooting. While legislators continue to protect their private interests in Albany in the budget, an Albany Police officer is ambushed and shot by a suspect in the Capitol’s backyard. Will it take the loss of an officer and lieutenant for them to wake up and begin to support the brave men and women who protect all New Yorkers including correctional officers? It certainly doesn’t seem that way - at least for those who supported ridiculous legislation like the HALT Act and bail

reform, and continue to coddle convicts!"-stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.