



Four Inmates Slashed at Elmira Correctional Facility

Four Individual Fights at Facility Occur In Three Days, One Inmate Airlifted to Hospital

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Elmira, NY – Four inmates were slashed by other inmates armed with make-shift weapons, including one inmate who sustained several deep lacerations and multiple puncture wounds at the hands of a convicted cop killer and needed to be airlifted to Strong Memorial Hospital to be treated for his injuries last week.

- On Sunday, May 19, during the evening meal in the mess hall, officers observed three inmates exchanging punches with two inmates. Several orders were given to stop but were ignored. Staff observed one inmate making slashing motions at another inmate. When additional staff arrived at the mess hall, two inmates stopped fighting and went to the ground. As three inmates continued to fight, officers grabbed two inmates in body holds and forced them to the ground. Once on the ground, the inmate's became compliant. The third inmate went to the ground on his own. The inmates were removed from the mess hall and brought to the infirmary. One inmate sustained a seven inch laceration to his head and neck consistent with a cutting type instrument. A search of the mess hall recovered a plastic shank sharpened on one end. A search of the inmates' cells recovered two cutting type instruments underneath the mattress of one inmate.
- On, Tuesday, May 21, an inmate needed to be airlifted to Strong Memorial Hospital after he sustained serious lacerations and puncture wounds to his face, neck and upper body. Initially, staff observed the two inmates exchanging punches in a dayroom at the facility. One inmate made multiple slashing motions. Staff orders were ignored and the two inmates continued fighting.

When additional staff arrived to the 2nd floor dayroom, both inmates complied and stopped fighting. Both inmates were escorted to the infirmary for treatment. The injured inmate was airlifted after it was determined he sustained serious wounds as a result of an icepick type weapon. The inmate accused of the cutting, is serving a life sentence after being convicted in New York County in the shooting death of a New York City Police Officer in 2015. At the time of the shooting, the inmate had served two prison stints and had been previously arrested 20 times.

- On Tuesday, May 21, an inmate was cut on the hand with a sharpened piece of metal that was melted into a pen. During HALT Programming in the Residential Rehabilitation Unit (RRU), three inmates engaged in a fight with one inmate. Staff gave orders for the inmates to stop fighting and two complied. OC spray was utilized three times on the two remaining inmates fighting. After the third application, they complied. The inmates were brought to the infirmary for evaluation and treatment.
- On Wednesday, May 22, officers assigned to the fieldhouse observed four inmate's fighting and exchanging punches. When four other inmates began to run towards the fight, chemical agents were introduced on the fieldhouse floor and all fighting ceased. The inmates were removed from the fieldhouse and brought to the infirmary. One inmate had lacerations to his cheek and ear consistent with a cutting type weapon. During the investigation, one inmate removed a ceramic scalpel from his mouth when he was interviewed by staff and it was determined it was the weapon used in the attack.

“One fortunate outcome of the inmate violence at Elmira last weeks was that no officers were injured in the four fights, especially with the fact that weapons were involved. The officers did an excellent job, as always, by stopping the fights from escalating, involving additional inmates and minimizing the number injured. It is ironic that in the one inmate fight it occurred during HALT programming, the same legislation that has stripped disciplinary measures down to the core and has driven inmate on inmate violence and inmate on staff violence to record levels. The violence will never stop until the discipline is addressed and strengthened. When you have an inmate who is serving a life sentence for shooting and killing an NYPD officer in the head, there is nothing to stop him in prison from killing an officer or another inmate when he knows there are no ramifications. The reality is, this violence will continue until someone is killed and that will be a very solemn day when that occurs, and at this rate it will happen sooner rather than later unless these law makers open their eyes before session ends in June!”-stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.