



Eight Officers Assaulted at Coxsackie Correctional Facility

Two Officers Bit, Breaking Skin, One Officer Cut with Weapon

For Immediate Release

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Coxsackie, NY – Eight officers were injured at Coxsackie Correctional Facility when two inmates attacked them in separate attacks at the maximum security correctional facility.

The first incident occurred on Friday, June 14. Initially, the inmate was refusing staff orders so he was ordered to submit to a pat frisk for contraband. During the frisk, an officer recovered a make-shift weapon in the inmate's pants pocket and a second officer observed the inmate swallow an unknown object. The inmate was escorted by staff to the facility clinic to be searched for additional contraband. During the search, the inmate came off the wall and elbowed an officer in the face. He was taken to the ground in body holds where he remained combative. During the struggle, the inmate bit two officers, one on the hand and the other on the wrist, breaking the skin. He kicked a third officer in the knee and attempted to break free from the officers and get back on his feet. The officers were able to force his arms behind his back and apply handcuffs. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant.

After the incident, the three injured officers were relieved of duty and were treated by facility medical staff. One officer had facial, shoulder, elbow, knee and hip injuries. He also sustained a break of the skin to his hand. The second officer sustained wrist, knee and hip injuries and a break of the skin to his wrist. The third officer sustained elbow, shoulder and knee injuries.

All three officers remained on duty after treatment.

The inmate is serving a one to three year sentence after being convicted in Nassau County in 2023 for Criminal Possession of a Firearm and Attempted Grand Larceny 3rd

The sharpened make-shift weapon was seized as evidence.

The second attack occurred in one of the prisons Special Housing Unit on Monday, July 17. A 29 year old inmate was refusing staffs direction to exit cell. After several failed attempts to get the inmate to comply, an extraction team responded to the cell. The inmate refused to comply with staff orders and officers noticed an object in the inmate's right hand. Chemical agents were introduced into the cell through the cell door hatch. The chemical agents failed to get the inmate to comply. The cell door was opened and an officer armed with a shield entered the cell. The inmate pushed back against the shield, forcing the officer into the cell door. A second officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the wall. The inmate struck the officer and made several slashing type motions at the officer, striking him in the arm. The inmate was forced to the floor, where he remained combative, kicking and striking officers. One of the officer observed a cutting type weapon in the inmate's hand. Force was used to get the inmate to drop the weapon to the floor. Officers were able to restrain the inmates legs and apply restraints. His arms were forced behind his back and handcuffs were applied. He was brought to his feet and escorted to the medical unit to be decontaminated.

The injured officers were treated by medical staff at the facility. Four officers sustained back, ankle, hip and knee injuries. They were treated and remained on duty. A fifth officer sustained a laceration to his forearm from being cut by the inmate armed with the weapon. He was transported to Albany Medical Center for treatment and did not return to duty.

The inmate, is serving a five year sentence after being convicted for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd in Bronx County in 2019. He was transferred to Great Meadow Correctional Facility after the assault.

The weapon, a piece of glass with electrical tape as a handle, was recovered by staff from the cell floor.

"Thankfully in Greene County we have a district attorney who aggressively prosecutes inmates who attack staff or carry contraband. In both attacks on staff, the inmates are already eligible for parole and the inmate involved in the cutting is scheduled to be released next month. If both are successfully prosecuted for felony assault, and their sentences extended, maybe they will think twice when it comes to attacking staff. Unfortunately for other prisons in different counties across the state, district attorneys aren't as aggressive in holding inmates accountable for attacking staff or carrying weapons. At least at Greene and Coxsackie prisons, our members know that the district attorney has their backs and does his best to protect them from future attacks. It is a nice feeling to have knowing one of elected officials supports our officers." - stated Joe Horacek, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.