



Dozen Officers Injured at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Eight Separate Inmate Assaults Report between May and July

For Immediate Release

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Rome, NY – A dozen officers were injured at the medium security correctional facility as a result of eight inmate attacks on staff, sending two officers for treatment at local hospitals between May and the beginning of July.

- On May 1, an officer observed an inmate acting suspicious and ordered him to submit to a pat frisk. During the frisk, the officer felt an object in the inmate's sock, rolled the sock down and a weapon fell out. When the officer picked up a piece of sharpened metal from the floor, the inmate spun off the wall and punched the officer in the face. The officer administered OC spray that had no effect. He grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. A second officer responded and forced the inmate's arms behind his back and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. The officer sustained redness, pain and swelling to his forehead. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty.
- On May 4, an officer ordered an inmate to submit to a pat frisk after he observed the inmate acting suspicious behind a facility dumpster. During the pat frisk, the inmate came off the wall and elbowed the officer in the head. The officer administered OC spray, which had the desired effect and the inmate became compliant. The officer had forehead swelling and was treated at the facility and remained on duty.
- On June 18, two officers were injured and one taken to Rome Hospital after an inmate initially attacked a female officer who went to investigate a disturbance in one of the dorms. When the officer approached the inmate, he charged at her and struck her in the head and jaw. She utilized OC spray with no effect. A second officer responded and used body holds to force the inmate to the floor, where he remained combative. The two officers applied handcuffs and the inmate became compliant. The female officer sustained pain and swelling to her cheek, jaw, ear and blurred vision. She was transported to the hospital after the incident. The responding officer sustained arm pain and swelling and remained on duty.

- On June 22, an officer injured his hand when he was counselling an inmate and he became argumentative, grabbed the officer's wrist and struck him the side of the face. The officer used force to break the wrist hold and forced the inmate to the ground where he became compliant.
- On June 24, a K9 conducting searches at the facility indicated on one inmate. When officers attempted to pat frisk the inmate, the inmate reached into his pants and pulled an object out and placed it in his mouth. He proceeded to spin around and struck one of the officers in the head. The two officers placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor, where he remained combative. A sergeant responded to the attack and placed handcuffs on the inmate. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant. The officer who was struck in the head sustained forehead swelling, pain to his neck and a headache. The second officer sustained hand and elbow injuries subduing the inmate. Both officers remained on duty after being treated at the facility.
- On June 25, four officers were injured after two separate inmate assaults at the facility. One officer was injured after conducting a pat frisk of an inmate, he spun off the wall and hit the officer in the head and body. The officer immediately placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground and applied handcuffs. The officer sustained knee and forehead injuries. In the second assault, three officers sustained wrist, hand and knee injuries while escorting an intoxicated inmate who became combative and kicked at officers as they forced him to the ground.
- On July 3, an officer was transported to Upstate Medical Bone & Joint after sustaining hand and shoulder injuries when an inmate attacked him when he ordered the inmate to extinguish a cigarette he was smoking in his cube in a facility dorm. The inmate charged the officer and struck him in the upper body. The officer placed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the floor and applied handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

“As we enter the summer months, you can see by the number of inmate assaults on staff, that the violence is escalating. With staffing shortages a consistent problem, the safety of staff is our single biggest priority right now. Thankfully the dozen officers who were assaulted were not seriously injured. That is not always the case and with the escalation of violence in all of our prisons, working conditions are only going to become more dangerous. It is unfortunate that the safety and well-being of our members isn't a priority of our elected officials who voted for progressive criminal justice policies that only have made matters worse!”-stated Bryan Hluska , Central Region Vice President.