



Seven Officers, One Lieutenant Injured at Upstate Correctional Facility

Six Staff Treated at Local Hospital for Injuries, Blood Exposure

For Immediate Release

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Malone, NY – Seven officers and a lieutenant were injured after five inmates initially attacked one officer who attempted to give the inmates' orders to perform their job duties and when they refused, they approached him in an aggressive manner and assaulted him.

The incident occurred on Friday, August 2. An officer was assigned to a facility building and directed the five inmates to perform their work duties. The inmates approached the officer and began to argue with him. When the inmates refused all orders, the officer attempted to call for assistance on his radio. The inmates surrounded the officer and one struck him in the face. The officer immediately grabbed the inmate in a body hold. The inmate began struggling with the officer as a second inmate struck the officer in the chest and arm.

A civilian staff member activated her personal alarm and used a facility phone to alert staff of the attack. When staff responded to the attack, four of the inmates ran off, with one inmate running to the loading dock.

With assistance of staff, the inmate being held in a body hold, was forced to the floor and his arms forced behind his back. Handcuffs were applied and he was brought to his feet, where he became compliant.

Officers approached the inmate that ran to the loading dock. He was ordered to place his hands on the wall. When staff approached him, he came off the wall and attempted to elbow officers. One officer blocked the elbow and he was placed in the body hold and forced to the wall. He was placed in handcuffs and all forced ceased.

The first inmate in the attack was being escorted to the infirmary and became combative again, attempting to kick officers. Officers used body holds again and forced him into the infirmary. Once in the infirmary, he became compliant.

Once order was restored, the five inmates were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges.

All injured staff were initially treated by medical staff at the facility. Four officers and the lieutenant sustained multiple injuries and blood exposure that medical staff deemed significant. They were transported to Alice Hyde Medical Center for further treatment.

The officer who was initially assaulted, had an abrasion and swelling to his eye. He was transported to Alice Hyde Medical Center and returned to duty after treatment.

Two officers sustained hand and back injuries and were treated at the facility and remained on duty.

“With Great Meadow and Sullivan Correctional Facilities scheduled to be closed in three months, assaults like what occurred at Upstate last week will be commonplace. All that will occur by closing those prisons is the inmates incarcerated there will be transferred to other prisons, causing overcrowding and taxing a staff that is being pushed to the brink by mandatory overtime and staffing shortages. It is shortsighted fix to a problem that will only get worse, all for saving money at the expense of staff safety. The state can spend 54 million dollars on renovations to Great Meadow that will now sit idle and more than likely never be repurposed. Splendid way to spend tax payers money!” - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.