



Unrest Continues at Elmira Correctional Facility

OC Spray Needed to Quell Several Fights, Cuttings Occur and Makeshift Weapons Found

**For Immediate Release:
March 1, 2018**

Elmira, NY – Weeks after two cell blocks were temporarily locked down at Elmira Correctional Facility following a series of fights, the unrest and fighting at the facility continues.

On Wednesday, February 7, 2018 two inmates engaged in a fight inside the gymnasium of the maximum security prison. The fight broke up before officers arrived. One inmate sustained a laceration to his face consistent with a cutting instrument. He was taken to the facility infirmary and treated for a three inch laceration. The second inmate was frisked, with no weapon found. He was placed in a special housing unit and faces disciplinary charges.

A second cutting incident occurred on Monday, February 12. Officers responded to two inmates attacking another inmate. When officers arrived, several orders were given to the inmates to stop fighting. The inmates complied with the orders.

Prior to being searched, two ice pick-style weapons and a broken piece of glass were recovered after the inmates dropped them to the floor. All three inmates were taken to the infirmary for treatment. One inmate sustained a small laceration to the back of his head consistent with a cutting.

Over the next two weeks, additional fights broke out between inmates inside the prison. Several of the fights consisted of multiple inmates in the gymnasium area that required OC spray deployed by officers to bring an end to the fighting.

Several other two-man fights occurred that needed OC spray administered to quell the fighting. Officers also seized seven makeshift weapons that inmates turned over or were found as a result of searches conducted at the facility. Inmates involved in the incidents were placed in special housing units and face internal disciplinary charges.

“The last two months have been extremely dangerous for our officers at Elmira Correctional Facility. In a continuation from last month, the unrest and fighting among inmates has escalated again. Makeshift weapons, cuttings and OC spray deployed to stop inmate fighting continues to be a common theme at Elmira. Everyone one of these incidents are dangerous for our members and we are thankful that no staff was injured.” – Joe Miano, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.