



## ***Unrest Continues at Elmira Correctional Facility***

### ***Several Large Inmate Fights Lead to Lockdown***

**For Immediate Release:**

**August 2, 2018**

**Elmira , NY** –Following on the heels of an inmate attack on an officer and four female visitors arrested for contraband last month, unrest continued at the maximum security facility the last week of July that lead to a complete lockdown.

Two officers were injured when an inmate attacked them as they attempted to search his cell for contraband on Wednesday, July 25. In the following days, officers broke up seven inmate-on-inmate fights containing as many as 10 inmates, with several inmates sustaining cutting type lacerations.

Officers recovered numerous makeshift weapons during the investigation into these incidents.

On July 25 at approximately 8:00 p.m., officers entered the cell of an inmate as he attempted to flush contraband down the toilet. The inmate turned and punched one officer in the left chest. Two officers grabbed the inmate, who continued to struggle, until they were able to get him into mechanical restraints. Both officers sustained injuries, one needing treatment at a local hospital for right shoulder and back pain.

On Thursday, July 26, at approximately 8:35 p.m., an officer observed an inmate exit the phone area with a laceration near his left eye that was consistent with a cutting instrument. The inmate stated he was cut from behind while he was on the phone. He was treated at the infirmary. No weapon was located.

On Saturday, July 28, an inmate reported to an officer he was cut by an unknown inmate while on his way back to the cell block from recreation. No weapon was located. The inmate was treated at the infirmary for two lacerations to his head.

On Sunday, July 29, at approximately 1:55 p.m., a 10 man fight broke out in the gym recreation yard. Several rounds of OC Spray were used to quell the fight. Once the inmates were under control, officers located two sharpened makeshift weapons on the ground. During the search, another brief, two man fight broke out. Officers quickly contained the fight. A third weapon was seized by an officer when one of the combatants dropped it on the ground. Three inmates sustained lacerations during the altercation.

On Monday, July 30, at approximately 10:15 a.m., two inmates engaged in a fight during breakfast. After the fight was broken up, one inmate had sustained three lacerations and one puncture wound. No weapon was located during the investigation. Later in the day during a search of an inmate's cell, officers located Synthetic Marijuana and Suboxone hidden in a bundle of toilet paper.

On Tuesday, July 31, at approximately 7: 48 a.m., a four inmate fight in the laundry corridor occurred. The inmates ignored initials orders to stop fighting. Officers eventually contained the situation using body holds on the inmates. Once order was restored, officers located a razor blade on the floor. Three inmates sustained lacerations. One officer was transported to a local hospital after being exposed to blood.

In the next 20 minutes, two more fights occurred. At 7:55 a.m., a four man fight occurred in the cell block. After several orders were given by officers, the inmates stopped fighting. Officers recovered two shank type weapons on the floor. Two inmates sustained lacerations. Minutes later, a six man fight broke out in the laundry area. All orders by staff were ignored. OC Spray was administered and the inmates stopped fighting, but not before one inmate punched an officer in the face.

"The number of inmate on inmate attacks that occurred at Elmira Correctional Facility last week is alarming. It literally seemed like once you contained one fight, another broke out in another area, one more serious than the other. Our officers on duty did an excellent job quickly containing each situation and removing the makeshift weapons used in the attacks. Even so, two officers were attacked and several sustained minor injuries containing the volatile situations. This, once again, paints a clear picture of the dangerous nature our officers face every minute of the day while on duty. Clear and simple, DOCCS has not done enough to reduce the amount of violence inside our facilities. The inmates involved will face disciplinary measures but the severity of the punishment amounts to a slap on the hand and simply doesn't deter them." – Joe Miano, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.