



For Immediate Release

Inmates Attack Officers In Recreation Yard

12 Officers Require Hospital Treatment In Two Separate Attacks at Facility

Auburn, NY – Eight Correction Officers were sent to the hospital when a large group of inmates attacked them in the recreation yard at Auburn Correctional Facility.

The incident occurred on Saturday, May 11th, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Two inmates were being escorted by two officers back to their cells for disciplinary reasons. When the inmates got to the gate entrance to the facility, they refused to go back inside and attacked both officers. Approximately 25 inmates joined in on the attack.

An officer assigned to the roof post fired a chemical agent into the crowd but it had no effect. When additional staff arrived in the yard they were attacked. One officer attacked was knocked unconscious. Additional chemical agents were deployed from the ground with no effect. The inmates were given several orders to get on the ground but they refused.

The chemical agents finally had an effect after several minutes as inmates ran toward the lower end of the yard. They were brought under control by staff and eventually returned to their cells.

The eight injured officers were all transported to Auburn Community Hospital and treated and released for lacerations, abrasions, bruising and swelling.

All inmates identified in the attack were placed in a Special Housing Unit.

As a result of the attack, a cell frisk was conducted the following day which netted a half dozen makeshift weapons that were hidden in inmate cells.

On Monday, May 13th, while officers were conducting additional searches, an inmate became agitated and unruly when officers entered his cell. As he was about to attack the officers, they grabbed him in a body hold. He continued to fight with officers and kicked one during the struggle. After a brief struggle, the officers were able to get the inmate under control and into restraints. He was removed from the area and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Four officers were injured in the struggle and needed treatment at Auburn Community Hospital. They were treated and released.

The investigation into the yard attack is on-going.

This incident follows a series of inmate on inmate fights and inmate on staff attacks that occurred in March. A lockdown of the facility occurred and a search netted 82 makeshift weapons at that time.

“Auburn Correctional Facility remains one of the most dangerous prisons in the state. On a consistent basis staff is assaulted, inmate on inmate fights occur and large numbers of weapons are seized. The attack on staff by more than two dozen inmates in the recreation yard could have been seconds away from one of our members being gravely injured. While the Governor continues to take credit for reducing the inmate population and closing a record amount of prisons, the hard working men and women of NYSCOPBA are at risk every day when they enter one of the facilities. Select legislators continue to call for additional reductions in discipline for inmates, leaving literally no deterrent for attacks like this one. When will those elected officials start to take notice that these men and women, who dedicate themselves to keeping our communities safe, deserve their support? They certainly haven’t shown it up to now!” – said Joe Miano, Western Region Vice President.

Additional Facility Assault– Another attack on staff occurred at Willard Correctional Facility on Tuesday, May 14th. Officers responded to a fight between two inmates. The officers got one inmate on the ground and under control. The second inmate was placed on the wall. He proceeded to head butt the one of the officers in the face. The officer sustained a lip and nose injury and possible damage to his septum. He was taken to an outside hospital for treatment.