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For Immediate Release

Inmates Injure Officers During Attack In Recreation Yard at Green Haven CF

Contraband Seized in Package Room in Separate Incident

Beekman, NY – A group of 40 inmates began to throw rocks and attack officers in the recreation yard after an inmate attacked an officer who refused to let him use one of the yard phones.

The incident occurred on Wednesday May 8th, at approximately 7:50 p.m. One inmate became belligerent with an officer when he refused to let him use the yard phone because he didn't have his inmate identification on him. The inmate attacked and punched the officer in the face, head and upper body. Additional officers arrived at the scene and attempted to get the inmate under control. The inmate continued to struggle, kick and punch at the officers.

During the struggle, approximately 40 inmates surrounded the officers. They were agitated and began to threaten and yell at the officers. An officer at his roof top post observed what was occurring and fired gas into the crowd, but it had no effect. Several inmates in the group began to punch, kick and throw water bottles and rocks at the officers. A second gas projectile was fired into the crowd, which initially pushed the crowd back. The inmates regrouped and came back at the officers, flipping picnic tables to form a barricade.

The roof top officer fired a third gas projectile. The gas pushed inmates back and they ran towards the yard door. The officer assigned to the door attempted to secure it before the inmates could enter the cell block but they were able to push their way through. After briefly running through the cell block, the inmates complied with officers orders and put their hands on the block wall. They were then returned to their cells.

The inmate who initially attacked the officer in the yard was brought under control, placed in restraints and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

Two inmates from the large group in the yard were also placed in a Special Housing Unit after being identified in the attack.

A search of the cell block recovered one makeshift weapon.

All inmates face disciplinary charges.

Six officers sustained injuries. One officer was taken for outside medical treatment for bruising, abrasions and swelling. The remaining officers remained on duty with minor injuries.

The following week, an officer assigned in the package room recovered contraband that was inside a GOYA Chick Pea can. On Wednesday, May 14th, the officer discovered 58 grams of Marijuana, 106 Suboxone tabs, 12.4 grams of Heroin and 5.6 grams of Cocaine hidden inside the can. The drugs were seized and placed into evidence. The investigation is on-going.

“In a span of four short days, we have had two large groups of inmates attack officers in prison recreation yards that could have resulted in serious injuries to our officers. One inmate, who simply could not follow the rules attacked several officers, which resulted in over 40 inmates surrounding and attacking officers at Green Haven. Four days later, something similar occurred at Auburn Correctional Facility that resulted in eight officers being sent to a local hospital. While the Governor continues to promote his record on prison closures and select legislators continue to advocate for a reduction in discipline for inmates, our members continue to get attacked at an alarming rate, yet you don’t hear one word of concern from those elected officials. Those who swear to protect and serve deserve far better from the Governor and those legislators.” – said Mike Mazzella, Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.