



Officers Attacked Again at Green Haven Correctional Facility

Troubling Trend of

Attacks on Staff

For Immediate Release

March 3, 2021

Stormville , NY – Four more officers were injured at Green Haven prison in three separate attacks that occurred over the past several days. The three attacks follow the assault that occurred last week that injured three officers at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Saturday, February 27, an officer was conducting inmate counts on a cell block. He approached an inmate's cell. The inmate, who was inside the cell, opened the cell door and attacked the officer, striking him several times in the face. The officer attempted to administer OC spray but was unsuccessful. The inmate slapped the OC canister out of the officer's hand, grabbed him and forced him to the floor. On the floor, the inmate got on top of the officer and continued to strike him. The officer was able to flip the inmate off him and break free. The inmate got up and ran down the cell block with staff in pursuit. He grabbed the cell bars of another inmate's cell and refused to let go. Officers administered OC spray again but it had no effect. Staff grabbed the inmate in body holds and pulled him from the cell bars. They were able to get his wrists behind his back and into handcuffs. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant.

The inmate was removed from the cell block and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges. He is serving an 11 year sentence after being convicted for Attempted Assault 1st in Rockland County in 2015.

Officers searched the inmate's cell and recovered marijuana inside a cellophane bag, a sharpened metal rod, and four gallons of homemade alcohol hidden inside the cell.

The officer who was attacked sustained a broken nose, blurred vision, shoulder and knee pain. He was transported to an outside hospital for treatment.

The following day, a 59 year old inmate serving a 25 years to life sentence for Murder 2nd, attacked and bit an officer on the hand in a cell block. The inmate, who was convicted in Nassau County in 2004, was allowed out of his cell to go to the outside yard for exercise. Instead, the inmate attempted to go to a kiosk to use his tablet. He was ordered to go to the yard or back into his cell by an officer. He refused orders several times. He then spit on the officer and took an aggressive fighting stance. The officer administered OC spray which had no effect. The officer grabbed the inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground. Additional staff arrived and they attempted to get the inmate in handcuffs. During the struggle, the inmate bit the officer on the hand. Staff eventually got the inmate into handcuffs and removed him from the cell block.

He was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The officer initially involved in the incident sustained swelling to his knee, right wrist and a bite on his hand. He was treated by medical staff and remained on duty.

Two officers who responded to the incident sustained minor injuries subduing the inmate. They remained on duty.

On Tuesday, March 2nd, officers responded to a fire on one of the cell blocks. An inmate was able to set several small fires on the walkway from inside of his cell. The inmate was ordered transferred to another unit for starting the fires. Officers opened his cell door and the inmate was ordered to turn around so handcuffs could be applied. The inmate suddenly spun around and lunged towards one of the officers. OC spray was administered which had no effect. The inmate struck the officer in the face. He proceeded to strike a second officer in the face several times. The two officers grabbed him in a body hold and forced to the ground where he remained combative and attempted to kick officers. After a brief struggle, officers applied handcuffs and removed the inmate from the cell block.

He was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The inmate, 25, is serving a 15 year sentence after being convicted for Robbery 1st and Assault 2nd in Monroe County in 2013.

The first officer assaulted sustained redness and swelling to his face. The second officer sustained swelling to his left eye and bruising to his forehead and right eyebrow. Both were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

“This is sickening... In less than two weeks’ time, officers at Green Haven have endured broken facial bones, bite wounds, black-eyes, injured shoulders, knees, necks and backs. I am not being hyperbolic when I say there’s an uprising taking place throughout the state prison system. My officers are being assaulted with impunity at the hands of an unchecked inmate population emboldened by dangerous new regulations and continued inaction on the part of DOCCS. Staff assaults at Green Haven continue to spike and nothing has been done to quell this violent momentum. This department bends over backwards to appease the legislature, but in doing so, has completely neglected its most important obligation, keeping our officers safe. “ – stated, Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.