



Officers Attacked by Inmate at Clinton Correctional Facility

Inmate Spits Blood into the Face of a Supervisor

For Immediate Release

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Dannemora, NY – An inmate, serving a seven year sentence for weapons possession, attacked several officers and spit blood in the face of a sergeant in an incident that took two hours to contain at the maximum security prison.

On Saturday, March 20, at approximately 11:50 a.m., the inmate came out of the bathroom in the recreation yard and started to act aggressively towards staff. He refused several orders from staff to stop. Several officers grabbed him in body holds and took him to the ground. On the ground, the inmate continued to fight and struggle with officers. The officers were able to get his arms behind his back and his wrists into handcuffs after a brief violent struggle.

As officers escorted the inmate from the yard, he began to struggle and fight with officers inside the yard door. He lunged towards a sergeant and spit in his face. He spit in the face of an officer and struck him in the left eye. Again, body holds were needed to control the inmate against the wall. Still struggling with officers, he was escorted to the facility hospital for evaluation.

In the hospital, he refused all orders from medical staff and began to be aggressive and combative. Body holds were used again to maintain control of the inmate.

He was moved to a Special Housing Unit cell for observation. Inside the cell, staff attempted to frisk the inmate for contraband and he began fighting again. Body holds were used to force him

against the wall to maintain control of him. While on the wall, the inmate was able to elbow an officer in the eye. OC spray was administered twice by staff with no effect.

Handcuffs were applied to the inmate and he was brought to the elevator to be transported back to the infirmary for decontamination. Inside the elevator, the inmate spit blood in the face and upper torso of a sergeant. The inmate was brought to the infirmary, decontaminated and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The sergeant and officer who were spit on were transported to an outside hospital for exposure. Several other staff sustained minor injuries in the incident and remained on duty.

The inmate, 41, was convicted in Oneida County in 2019 for Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd after being arrested in a shooting incident in Utica.

“It took staff close to two hours to get one violent inmate under control as he continued to refuse orders and fight with staff. Besides the officer and sergeant getting exposed to spit and blood, no other staff were seriously injured thankfully. With a weakened disciplinary system in place now, and with the HALT bill signed into law by the Governor, there is virtually no deterrent left for inmates not to attack staff on a daily basis. Our elected officials consistently fail to recognize the need to protect staff from these constant unprovoked attacks! ” – stated John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.