



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officers Attacked, Weapons and Drugs Seized at Auburn Correctional Facility

Dangerous Environment Continues to Plague Prison

For Immediate Release

May 12, 2021

Auburn, NY – Several officers were injured in three separate inmates attacks and make-shift weapons and drugs were seized in April at the maximum security prison.

On Monday, April 12, an inmate was being escorted back to his cell. His handcuffs were unsecured from his waist chain by an officer. The inmate spun, and struck the officer in the face with the handcuffs and his fists. Several officers grabbed the inmate in a body hold and brought him to the ground. On the ground, the inmate continued to fight and struggle with officers. During the struggle, the inmate bit the same officer he hit in the face in the forearm.

Staff were able to get him back into restraints. Once in restraints, the inmate became compliant.

The injured officer was treated by medical staff at the facility and went to an outside urgent care for additional treatment.

One officer sustained minor injuries subduing the inmate.

The inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary proceedings.

On Saturday, April 4, an officer was conducting a pat frisk of an inmate. During the frisk, the inmate elbowed the officer. Additional staff responded and grabbed the inmate in a body hold and brought him to the ground. On the ground, the inmate elbowed the officer again in the ribs, incapacitating him.

After a brief struggle, staff was able to get the inmate in handcuffs and he became compliant.

The injured officer was transported to an outside hospital for left rib pain. He was treated and released and did not return to duty.

Three officers were treated by medical staff at the facility for abrasions sustained in subduing the inmate.

The inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary proceedings.

On Thursday, April 1, an officer was struck in the face and bit on the wrist by an inmate inside his cell. Two officers were removing the inmate's handcuffs from his waist chain when he suddenly struck one officer in the face and bit him on the wrist. The two officers, with assistance from additional staff, grabbed the inmate in a body hold and brought him to the cell floor.

After a brief struggle, the inmate became compliant.

The injured officer was treated by medical staff at the facility and remained on duty.

The inmate was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary proceedings.

Staff also recovered 15 make-shift weapons during inmate and cell frisks and two inmate on inmate fights that occurred during April.

Synthetic marijuana, Suboxone and marijuana were also seized from inmates during random frisks and through packages mailed to inmates.

" On Monday we stood outside of Auburn prison and called for the repeal of the HALT legislation specifically because of what occurred this past April at the prison. Three assaults on staff, multiple weapons and drugs seized, and little or no recourse other than a mere slap on the wrist under the current policies. Despite calling on DOCCS and state legislators to make meaningful policy changes to protect staff, here we are once again reporting on assaults, weapons and drugs. The politicians elected to represent us simply don't understand the gravity of danger that exists for our members. They would rather cater to inmate advocated rather than support staff!" - stated Mark Deburgomaster, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.