



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Inmate Fights Occur at Elmira Correctional Facility

Make-Shift Weapons Recovered, Two Inmates Cut

For Immediate Release

August 3, 2021

Elmira, NY – Two inmate fights occurred in the fieldhouse less than an hour apart resulting in two inmates being cut multiple times by make-shift weapons at the maximum security prison on Sunday.

The first attack occurred at approximately 7:23 p.m. Officers assigned to the fieldhouse witnessed two inmates attacking another inmate. Staff gave several orders for the inmates to stop fighting. After a short period of time, the fighting stopped and the two inmates who attacked the other, attempted to blend in with other inmates in the fieldhouse.

Staff quickly identified all parties involved and removed them from the inmate populations inside the field house.

One inmate was taken to the infirmary and treated for three lacerations to his cheek, left ear and jaw. Staff determined the lacerations were consistent with a cutting type instrument.

All three inmates face disciplinary charges.

At approximately 8:15 p.m., staff observed six inmates fighting. They were punching each other and making slashing motions. One officer gave the fighting inmates several orders to stop, which were ignored. The officer witnessed a group of inmates running from the phone

area of the fieldhouse towards the fight. Gas was deployed into the crowd to gain control of the crowd. The group of inmates from the phone area immediately retreated. The six inmates continued to fight. Staff on the ground arrived and attempted to break up the fight, which not had splintered into multiple fights. OC Spray was deployed. After several applications, all of the inmates ceased fighting.

The six inmates were removed from the fieldhouse and brought to the infirmary for examination. One inmate was treated for three lacerations consistent with a cutting instrument.

After treatment, the inmates were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges.

No staff were injured in either incident.

In addition to the two fights on Sunday, an inmate attacked an officer inside his cell after the officer entered when he witnessed the inmate with a bedsheet around his neck and tied to the cell radiator. On Wednesday, July 21, an officer making routine rounds noticed the inmate inside his cell with the bedsheet around his neck. The officer called for assistance and entered the cell. As the officer approached him, the inmate stood up and spit at the officer and charged him. The officer was able to grab the inmate in a body hold and force him to the floor. As additional staff arrived at the cell, the inmate remained combative with staff, attempting to kick them.

Handcuffs were applied and the inmate became compliant.

He was removed from his cell and brought for examination.

“We have tried our best to educate Governor Cuomo and State Legislators on the dangers that exist inside our prisons but they continually ignore the violence that is occurring. Until they take action, not only to protect staff, but inmates as well, the violence will continue at record levels. That is simply unacceptable!” - stated Mark Deburgomaster, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.