



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2013

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NYSCOPBA: INMATE VIOLENTLY ASSAULTS OFFICER AT GREEN HAVEN CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Green Haven Facility In Lock Down

STORMVILLE - The Green Haven Correctional Facility is on lock down after a Correction Officer was violently assaulted by an inmate today. During a routine pat down, an inmate punched the officer in the face, brandishing a weapon similar to an ice pick during the assault. The inmate was then subdued by other officers.

"Correction officers put their safety on the line everyday to protect the public, and this assault is another reminder that even routine procedures can spiral out of control when inmates become violent. NYSCOPBA will continue to monitor the situation at Green Haven," **said Mike Mazzella, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Regional Vice President.**

The inmate population at New York State's correctional facilities has decreased by 6,633 inmates over the last 5 years, but there has been an increase in prison violence. There have been 588 reported assaults on staff so far this year, compared to 580 for all of 2008, and 524 from 2012. In addition, there have been 690 inmate-on-inmate assaults this year, compared to 657 in all of 2008.

Statewide, the number of violent felony offenders has increased as well. In 2013, 82% of inmates in maximum security facilities were violent felony offenders, compared to 77% in 2008. For medium security facilities, 57% of inmates were violent felony offenders, compared to 51% in 2008.

"Despite smaller inmate populations, violence against staff is at the highest level in five years. Our maximum security correctional facilities, such as Green Haven, are packed with violent offenders. The administration's shortsighted plan to close prisons will only exacerbate overcrowding and undermine law enforcement goals. New Yorkers deserve a smarter public safety plan," **said Donn Rowe, President of NYSCOPBA.**