



**Media Release**  
July 15, 2015

**Convicted Murderer Attacks Correction Officer**  
*Officer Sustains Fractured Cheekbone*

**Wallkill, NY** – A convicted murderer, serving 30 years to life, attacked a correction officer on July 8 at Shawangunk Correctional Facility, fracturing his cheekbone and lacerating his ear at the maximum security prison.

The incident occurred at approximately 9:40 PM. The officer was working in a housing unit when the inmate, Robert Blount, stepped onto a stoop where the officer was standing. The officer ordered Blount off the stoop but he refused to comply.

The officer gave the inmate a second order, which he again refused to comply. The inmate then stepped towards the officer with clenched fists. The officer stepped back to maintain space between the inmate. When he stepped back, the inmate punched the officer in the left ear. The officer pushed him away but was struck again by the inmate, this time in the left cheek.

The officer continued to move back away from the inmate but was struck a third time in the mouth.

Another officer responded to the scene and both officers grabbed the inmate in body holds and took him to the ground. Once on the ground, the officers were able to get the inmate's hands in restraints.

The inmate was removed from the housing unit and placed in a special housing unit.

The officer was transported to St. Luke's Hospital where he was treated for a fractured left cheekbone. He also received stitches to his ear.

He was treated and released.

Blount, 39, is serving a 30 years to life sentence for a double homicide in Queens County in 1998. He was convicted of Murder 1<sup>st</sup>, Murder 2<sup>nd</sup>, Attempted Murder 2<sup>nd</sup> and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1999.

"This is another example of an unprovoked attack on staff. Our concern for our members' safety has always been our top priority and more so now, as the attacks on staff continue to rise. We need to continue to advocate for meaningful discipline for inmates, like Blount, who refuse to comply with the rules inside of the prisons. If that doesn't occur, our members will continue to be at risk," stated Mike Mazzella, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Vice President.

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