



For Immediate Release

March 25, 2015

Weapons, Drugs Found in Search at Mid-State Correctional Facility

Investigation Indicates Officers Were Being Targeted

Marcy , NY – A random search of Mid-State Correctional Facility turned up 7 scalpel blades, 85 HGH pills and 11 homemade weapons that were being hidden in various locations of the medium security prison.

On Sunday, March 15, at approximately 5:10 PM, an officer conducted a search of a bathroom at one of the dorms at the facility. During the search the officer located 7 scalpel blades and 85 pills that were hidden in the bathroom toilet dispenser. The blades were in a plastic cover wrapped in black electrical tape. The pills were later identified as Growth Factor 9, which is a human growth hormone.

Based on the contraband found, several inmates were interviewed and additional dorms were searched the following two days. Those searches turned up 2 additional scalpel blades and 11 homemade weapons. Among the homemade weapons were an altered plumbing brush with a metal point that was sharpened like an ice pick- type weapon. Officers located that weapon inside a heating duct inside one of the dorms.

Officers also found a 9 ½ inch long metal ice- pick type weapon that was being hidden inside an inmate's sneaker under his bed. A 4 inch long ice pick- type weapon with a red cloth handle was found hidden in a sink inside the inmates' bathroom. A sharpened 6 inch toothbrush weapon was also found hidden in a common area radiator during the searches.

Several rolls of black electrical tape were located in the dorms. The electrical tape is commonly used to wrap around a cutting instrument to use as a handle.

During the three day long investigation, there was an indication that the weapons that were located were going to be used against officers working at the facility. The officers were specifically targeted by inmates.

The investigation also determined that some inmates were holding the weapons for other inmates in exchange for drugs.

The drugs and scalpel blades were apparently being brought into the prison in packages that were earmarked for other inmates and were able to get through the screening process.

In total, eight inmates were confined in a special housing unit pending disciplinary hearings as a result of the investigation.

NYSOPBA just launched a statewide radio campaign that highlights the challenges facing correction officers throughout the prisons in New York State. Despite a significant decline in prison population, the number of assaults on staff have increased by 30 percent since 2010.

Contraband, including drugs and weapons, is finding its way into the facilities and into the hands of the inmates at a far greater rate than ever.

“This incident at Mid-State Correctional Facility is the most recent example of how dangerous our prisons have become. Weapons and drugs find their way into inmates’ hands far too easily.

The most troubling aspect of this investigation is the fact there is credible information that several officers were being targeted by inmates for attack and the scalpel blades or homemade weapons were going to be used in the attacks.

We must continue to call for a greater investment in our prisons. Creating a safer environment for our officers as well as the inmates must be a priority of the administration,” said Paul Lashway, Central Region Vice President.