



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officers, National Guardsman Overcome by Unknown Drug at Mohawk Correctional Facility

One Female Officer Remains in Intensive Care at Hospital

For Immediate Release

April 6, 2026

Rome , NY — Three officers and two National Guardsmen at a medium-security correctional facility were hospitalized after being exposed to an unknown substance found on papers inside an envelope brought by a visitor. The exposure occurred yesterday as the officers were processing the visitor in the lobby of the facility. Upon opening the envelope, which contained papers soaked in the unidentified substance, the officers and nearby guardsmen began to experience symptoms including headaches, dizziness, difficulty breathing, and vomiting.

The affected personnel were immediately treated by the facility’s medical staff before being transported to Rome Hospital as their symptoms worsened. One female officer required sedation and intubation, ultimately being placed in the Intensive Care Unit. The other officers and National Guardsmen were monitored for extended symptoms before being released from the hospital.

A HAZMAT team and the State Police were called to the facility to investigate. The State Police transported the female visitor back to the Marcy Barracks, where she was charged with promoting prison contraband. The envelope and papers were seized and are pending testing for the presence of illicit drugs.

Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President, emphasized the daily risks faced by correctional officers: “Correctional officers constantly put their health and safety on the line every single day. In this tragic incident, a visitor smuggled a dangerous and potentially deadly substance into the facility. Because of their unwavering commitment to duty, we now have one officer in the ICU, sedated and intubated. This is the brutal daily reality for our members as they risk everything to keep contraband out of our prisons, often without any idea what lethal substances they might encounter. Smuggling techniques are getting more sophisticated by the day, and the flood of potent drugs into these environments has become a deadly crisis.

Yet Progressive legislators in Albany continue to tie our officers’ hands while coddling criminals. They consistently prioritize the comfort and ‘rights’ of inmates over the lives of the men and women who protect the public. It’s time for these legislators to stop listening exclusively to radical inmate activist groups that clearly do not make officer and public safety their top priority. Enough is enough, our correctional officers deserve real support and real protections, not more empty virtue signaling that gets good people seriously hurt.”