



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

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***“Keeping New York Safe”***

**Inmate Plants Mannequin Type Dummy in Cell Bed at Elmira Correctional Facility**

*Inmate Located in Mess Hall After Staff Discovers Ruse*

**For Immediate Release**

**May 18, 2026**

**Elmira , NY** — On Friday, May 8, a nurse and a National Guardsman delivering medication to inmates noticed what appeared to be a mannequin or dummy in an inmate’s bed, giving the impression that the inmate was asleep. The mannequin was constructed using a crumpled t-shirt stuffed with pillow material, topped with a knit hat, and attached to pants and white sneakers. Noticing inconsistencies in the figure, the staff immediately notified supervisors.

Staff entered the cell and confirmed the presence of the mannequin-type dummy. An immediate search for the inmate was conducted, and he was located in the mess hall. The inmate, 42, complied with orders to exit the mess hall and was placed in a holding cell while staff continued their investigation. An inspection of the inmate’s cell confirmed no breach had occurred, and the integrity of the cell remained intact. The inmate, serving a seven-year sentence for Assault in the Second Degree (Onondaga County, 2025), was placed on a watch in his cell as the investigation continues.

In addition to this incident, the facility experienced three separate inmate-on-inmate fights during recreation on the same day. Two officers sustained injuries while subduing the inmates.

The first involved over a dozen inmates were involved in a large fight in the gym. Initially, the inmates refused all orders to stop fighting, and multiple applications of OC spray were ineffective. Officers observed two inmates making stabbing and slashing motions. Both were restrained using body holds and forced to the ground. One inmate was found with a sharpened toothbrush, which staff recovered. As the fighting continued, officers deployed gas through the ceiling delivery system, which successfully ended the altercation. All inmates were removed from the gym and decontaminated. A subsequent search recovered a second weapon, a ceramic folding knife. The inmates involved were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary action.

Two officers sustained lower back, shoulder, and knee injuries while subduing the inmates. They were treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

The second fight occurred when two inmates engaged in a fight during recreation and initially ignored staff orders to stop. OC spray was administered, temporarily stopping the altercation. One inmate reengaged and was subdued using a body hold against the wall before being handcuffed. Both inmates were escorted to a Special Housing Unit.

The third fight occurred in the facility fieldhouse during afternoon recreation. Four inmates began exchanging punches and ignored multiple orders to cease. Officers observed additional inmates running toward the fight. Gas was deployed into the fieldhouse, successfully subduing three of the combatants. One inmate remained combative and was restrained with body holds, forced to the floor, and handcuffed. All involved inmates were removed from the fieldhouse and placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary measures.

“Staff did an excellent job quickly noticing the inmate’s deception and locating him in the mess hall. They ensured there was no breach of the facility or the inmate’s cell. However, incidents like this highlight the need to evaluate an inmate’s motivations and maintain vigilance. Every day, our members successfully prevent inmate assaults, recover dangerous drugs and weapons, and stop contraband from entering the facility. On this day alone, they quickly controlled three inmate-on-inmate fights, despite two officers sustaining injuries. Yet, they receive minimal support or recognition from legislators who passed the HALT Act, favoring inmate advocates over the safety of the men and women protecting our communities,” stated Kenny Gold, Western Region Vice President.