



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Planned Dorm Search Leads to Recovery of Contraband at Mohawk Correctional Facility

Over Dozen Make-Shift Weapons, Drug Saturated Paper and Gang Material Seized

For Immediate Release

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Rome, NY – A planned security search conducted by officers at Mohawk Correctional Facility resulted in the seizure of 17 inmate-manufactured weapons, multiple pieces of drug-saturated paper believed to contain synthetic narcotics, and gang-related material, highlighting the ongoing dangers correction officers face in New York's prisons.

The search was conducted as part of ongoing security operations inside one of the facility's dormitories. During the search, correction officers systematically searched inmate living and common areas and uncovered a significant number of dangerous contraband concealed throughout the housing unit.

Among the items recovered were 17 inmate-manufactured weapons, numerous pieces of paper suspected to be saturated with synthetic drugs, as well as gang-related documents and materials hidden in inmates living cubes. The weapons included ceramic blades, icepick type weapons and a sharpened can lid.

All contraband was secured and placed into evidence. The drug-saturated paper will be submitted for laboratory analysis to determine the presence of controlled substances. The inmates who were found in possession of contraband were placed in Special Housing Units pending disciplinary charges.

The seizure underscores the constant vigilance required of correction officers to prevent dangerous contraband from circulating inside correctional facilities. Inmate-manufactured weapons pose a significant threat to both staff and inmates, while synthetic drugs have contributed to a growing number of violent incidents and medical emergencies throughout the state prison system.

"This seizure demonstrates exactly why routine and planned searches are critical to maintaining the safety and security of our correctional facilities," said NYSCOPBA Central Region Vice President Bryan Hluska. "Seventeen weapons hidden in a single dorm should alarm every New Yorker. These weapons are designed for one purpose—to seriously injure or kill someone. Add synthetic drugs and gang activity to the equation, and it becomes even more dangerous for the men and women who work inside our prisons every day. Our members continue to remove these deadly items despite the risks they face, but they need the continued support, staffing, and resources necessary to keep these facilities secure."