



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officer Cut by Inmate During Violent Assault at Five Points Correctional Facility

For Immediate Release

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Romulus, NY – A correction officer was transported to an outside hospital for treatment after being cut by an inmate during a violent incident at Five Points Correctional Facility on September 12.

The incident began when a 37-year-old inmate was ordered by an officer to secure the recreation area attached to his cell. The inmate walked to the back of his cell and refused to comply with the order. The cell door was opened and an officer equipped with a protective shield entered the cell, with additional officers immediately behind him. The inmate advanced toward staff and began making slashing and cutting motions. Officers immediately placed him in a body hold and forced him to the floor.

While on the floor, the inmate continued to resist and began spitting at officers, prompting staff to apply a spit net. The inmate then wrapped his legs around another officer's legs and attempted to pull the officer to the ground. Officers used force to break his grip before securing his arms behind his back and applying handcuffs.

The inmate was brought to his feet and escorted from the cell. He remained combative and refused to follow orders and was subsequently placed in a secure room.

Several officers were injured during the struggle. One officer sustained injuries to his left eyebrow and forearm during struggle, and a cut to the right side of his rib area. The laceration to his forearm was approximately two inches long, while the laceration to his right side was approximately six inches long. He was transported to Cayuga Medical Center for further treatment.

Four additional officers sustained injuries, including shoulder and hand injuries and abrasions to their hands and knees. Two of those officers were also transported to Cayuga Medical Center for treatment.

Following the assault, officers searched the inmate's cell and recovered a weighted sock containing three bars of soap and a broken state-issued razor blade that staff believe may have been used in the cutting of rib area.

The September 12 incident was not the only example of violence directed toward staff at Five Points in recent days.

On September 9, two officers were injured while responding to separate inmate fights during morning meals in two different mess halls.

In the first incident, two inmates began fighting and ignored repeated orders to stop. A responding officer attempted to separate the inmates but was unsuccessful as they pulled away and continued exchanging punches. Additional staff responded and OC spray was deployed four times without effect. Officers then utilized body holds to separate the inmates. One inmate was placed in handcuffs and became compliant. The second inmate remained combative and was forced outside the mess hall by two officers and a National Guardsman. He was taken to the wall and handcuffed. Once the inmate was secured, all force ceased.

In the second mess hall incident, two inmates began exchanging punches before a third inmate joined the fight. Officers deployed OC spray, which successfully stopped one inmate. The other two continued fighting. One officer utilized a body hold and forced one inmate to the floor, where he was handcuffed and became compliant. Two officers and a National Guardsman successfully separated the second inmate, who was also placed in handcuffs.

Once all the inmates were under control, they were removed from the mess hall and decontaminated.

Two officers sustained injuries while subduing the inmates during the two separate fights, including lower back, facial and knee pain. Both officers were evaluated and treated by facility medical staff and remained on duty.

Additionally, an inmate at Five Points is facing disciplinary charges after he assaulted his wife during a family visit at the prison on August 19. The incident occurred during a scheduled family visit when the 22-year-old inmate slapped his wife in the face with an open hand. An officer assigned to the visit room witnessed the assault and immediately intervened, removing the inmate from the visiting area.

The inmate's wife declined to press criminal charges in connection with the incident. The inmate is facing disciplinary charges because of the assault.

The inmate is currently serving an 18-year prison sentence following his 2022 conviction in Rensselaer County for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree and Attempted Robbery in the Second.

These incidents highlight the increasingly dangerous conditions correction officers face inside New York's correctional facilities, where staff are routinely forced to respond to inmate-on-inmate violence while also confronting inmates who refuse orders and attack staff.

“Our members should not have to put their lives and their health on the line every time they encounter an inmate.” said NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President Kenny Gold. “These incidents are another reminder of the dangers correction officers face every day. Officers responded professionally, used the appropriate measures to gain control, and protected the safety of everyone around them, despite being assaulted by violent felons. The result of that violence is one officer being cut with a weapon that required stitches and other officers being injured responding to this violence. The legislature needs to recognize the reality our members are dealing with and provide the support necessary to keep these facilities safe.”