



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Inmate on Inmate Fights, Weapons and Drugs Seized at Cape Vincent Correctional Facility

Officer Sustains Fractured Arm in One Inmate Fight

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Cape Vincent , NY - Following significant contraband seizures in April at the medium security correctional facility, staff continued their efforts in May by investigating several inmate-on-inmate assaults, recovering additional weapons, and seizing more than 24 gallons of homemade alcohol during a dormitory search.

In April, staff conducted multiple random cube and dorm searches that resulted in the recovery of 10 makeshift weapons, several bundles of drug-saturated paper, and 26 gallons of homemade alcohol concealed in inmate living areas. During the same month, staff also investigated 10 inmate-on-inmate fights.

The violence and contraband activity continued into May. Officers recovered two sharpened toothbrushes from inmate quarters and seized a broken piece of plexiglass during a pat frisk of an inmate. In addition, officers and National Guard personnel discovered more than 24 gallons of homemade alcohol hidden throughout one of the dormitories during a comprehensive search.

Suspected narcotics were also recovered during a cube frisk. The contraband consisted of several cellophane bundles and latex fingertips containing a brown substance. The materials were secured and submitted to a laboratory for testing.

Three inmates suffered multiple lacerations after being attacked by other inmates during separate incidents. Two of the assaults occurred while the victims were asleep in their cubes, while the third attack took place inside a dormitory bathroom.

Two officers were also injured while responding to an inmate-on-inmate fight. During the altercation, one officer was knocked backward and struck his arm on the pavement. He was transported to River Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a fractured arm. A second officer sustained a back injury while helping subdue the fighting inmates after they refused repeated orders to stop and remained combative despite the use of OC spray.

The continued recovery of weapons, drugs, and homemade alcohol, combined with the ongoing violence inside the facility, highlights the dangerous conditions correction officers face daily as they work to maintain the safety and security of both staff and inmates.

“While officers have been effective in removing weapons and drugs from inmates, the reality is that these items are quickly replaced. Without a disciplinary system that deters assaults on staff, attacks on other inmates, and the possession of dangerous contraband, officers have little ability to prevent recurring incidents. The HALT Act is directly responsible for this situation. By stripping away meaningful disciplinary measures in our prisons, it has contributed to historic levels of violence, drug activity, and weapon possession across the state over the past four years. The State Legislature must acknowledge the reality inside our prisons and implement the recommendations of the HALT Committee,” stated Bryan Hluska, Central Region Vice President.