



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

***Large Inmate Fight in Recreation Yard Occurs at Great Meadow
Correctional Facility***

Chemical Agents Used by Staff to Stop the Fighting

June 2, 2021

Comstock, NY – Staff needed to deploy chemical agents into the recreation yard after two inmates began fighting and it erupted into a 20 man fight at the maximum security prison last weekend.

On Saturday, May 29, an officer assigned to the recreation yard observed two inmates begin to fight near the outdoor phones. Shortly after, up to 20 inmates began fighting in different sections of the yard. Three officers assigned to the yard towers fired chemical agents into the yard to quell the fighting. Despite the chemical agents, the inmates continued to fight.

Officers on the ground administered OC Spray into three different groups of inmates fighting. The OC Spray achieved its desired effect and the inmates stopped fighting and complied with officers' orders.

Once the yard was under control, the inmates were removed from the yard and decontaminated from the chemical agents. The inmates were frisked for contraband after decontamination. Three inmates were found with drugs on them. One inmate had several pieces of paper saturated with liquid synthetic marijuana. Two inmates were found with marijuana.

All three face disciplinary charges and were returned to their cells.

A search of the yard recovered two weapons, a ceramic scalpel and a sharpened toothbrush. An officer witnessed one inmate throw the ceramic scalpel to the ground after the fight. He was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

Several inmates were treated in the infirmary for minor injuries and returned to their cells.

No staff were injured in the incident.

“Amidst another year of violence inside our correctional facilities in 2020, this year appears to be much the same. Until our elected officials recognize the harm they have done reducing discipline yet again, large fights like this will continue. Thankfully there were no injuries to staff, but the reality is, they are on the front line and their safety is in jeopardy every time they walk into a prison under the current climate.” – Stated John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.