



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

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## ***“Keeping New York Safe”***

### ***Inmate Fights Occur at Coxsackie Correctional Facility***

#### ***Mess Hall Fights Injures Several Officers, Weapon Recovered***

***October 1, 2021***

**Coxsackie, NY** – Five officers were injured at the maximum security facility attempting to stop two groups of inmates who began fighting inside the mess hall Tuesday morning.

At approximately 11:30 a.m., an officer assigned to the mess hall observed an inmate stand up from his table and attack another inmate. A third inmate, who was in close proximity to the fight, ran and joined in and started throwing punches. A response was called for additional staff as the three inmates continued to fight and ignore all orders to stop. OC Spray was administered to one inmate with no effect. An officer grabbed two inmates, who were exchanging punches, in a body hold and forced both to the ground.

Another staff assisted and grabbed one of the inmates and pulled him apart from the other. Another officer who responded to the scene, grabbed the third inmate in a body hold and forced him to the ground.

Once on the ground, staff were able to get the three inmates under control and into handcuffs.

At the same time, three inmates who were in the serving line, began exchanging punches. A fourth inmate ran from his table and joined in the fight.

Ignoring staff orders to stop fighting, an officer administered OC Spray to the inmates, which had no effect. As the fight continued, an officer grabbed one of the inmates in a body hold and

forced him to the ground. Once on the ground, the inmate became compliant. A second round of OC spray was administered to the other three inmates and it was effective and they ceased fighting.

All four inmates were placed in handcuffs and removed from the mess hall.

A search of one of the inmates recovered a ceramic folding knife in his pants pockets.

All inmates involved were placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

The officers who were injured containing the two fights were treated by facility medical staff. Two officers sustained back pain, a third officer sustained knee, hip and shoulder pain, and a fourth officer sustained knee and foot pain.

The four officers remained on duty.

A fifth officer was transported to Albany Medical Center for swelling and pain to her hip and knee. She was treated and released.

“The significant increase in inmate on staff and inmate on inmate assaults can be traced directly back to DOCCS weakening the disciplinary system in 2015. Now with HALT legislation passed, that system will provide little or no deterrent to inmates who do not follow the rules, act out and become violent towards staff and other inmates. It is a broken system that provides no safeguards for staff to be attacked on a daily basis.” - stated, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President Chris Moreau