



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

Officers Injured, Weapons, Cell Phone, Seized at Green Haven Correctional Facility

Mess Hall Inmate Fight Injures Five Officers

March 28, 2022

Stormville , NY – Five officers were injured at Green Haven Correctional Facility last week after a fight broke out between two inmates and escalated into multiple inmates at the maximum security prison.

Staff also seized several make-shift weapons and a cell phone at the facility during a routine search of a cell block.

The fight occurred on Wednesday, March 23, in the mess hall. One inmate took his food tray and struck another inmate with the tray. The two inmates began exchanging punches and ignored staff’s orders to stop fighting. The fight evolved into a multi-inmate fight as other inmates joined in. OC Spray was administered with no effect. Officers were able to quickly get control of the inmates and stop the fighting. As staff controlled the situation, an inmate ran off the food line and attacked one of the combatants.

Force was necessary to get the fight under control again.

Once order was restored, all inmates involved in the fight were removed from the mess hall and brought to the infirmary to be decontaminated from the OC Spray.

The inmate who initiated the initial fight was placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

Five officers were treated for an assortment of injuries containing the fight and for exposure to OC Spray. Facility medical staff treated officers for shoulder, knee, wrist, ankle, and hip pain.

Four of the officers remained on duty after treatment.

The fifth officer was taken to Vassar Medical Center for treatment of a bleeding nose.

The previous day, staff conducted a search for contraband in one of the facilities cell blocks. Staff recovered three metal ice pick type weapons, a ceramic razor blade and a cell phone and charger during the search.

Two of the weapons were recovered from inmate's cells. Two ice pick type weapons were found hidden in the insulation of a heat pipe in the cell block.

The cell phone, charger and charging cord were found inside an inmate's cell. The cell phone was hidden behind a bulletin board on the wall. The charger was hidden in the bedframe and the cord was hidden inside a roll of toilet paper.

The inmate was transferred to Fishkill Correctional Facility and faces disciplinary charges.

"With the implementation of HALT to occur on Friday, the chaos continues in our state correctional facilities. All HALT does is weaken a discipline system that is aimed at protecting staff and inmates from violent attacks by other inmates. The ill-conceived legislation will only make our prisons more dangerous than they already are. Multiple inmate fights like the one that occurred at Green Haven in the mess hall last week will only become more common and all that does is make it that more dangerous for our officers. DOCCS also needs to address the contraband issue that exists. Besides the abundance of drugs that make their way into the hands of inmates, there is a need for full body scanners in every facility to limit the amount of make-shift weapons and dangerous contraband like cell phones that wind up in the possession of inmates. These problems are not going to go away and they need to be addressed now, not down the road." –stated, Chris Moreau, NYSCOPBA Mid-Hudson Region Vice President.