



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

“Keeping New York Safe”

More Violence at Great Meadow Correctional Facility

Two Officers Injured, Inmate Slashed in Attacks

April 22, 2022

Comstock, NY – Two officer’s sustained minor injuries when an inmate attacked them in the mess hall and one inmate was cut with a make-shift weapon in the recreation yard at the maximum security correctional facility last week.

The first incident occurred on Tuesday, April 12. An officer assigned to the recreation yard tower, witnessed two inmates engaged in a fight. One inmate was making a slashing motion at the other inmate. Orders were given to stop fighting but ignored. Before additional staff arrived, three other inmates joined in the fight. As additional staff arrived, orders were given again to stop fighting. Three inmates complied with staff’s orders. Two inmates refused and continued to fight. Staff administered OC spray to the two inmates, with no effect. Officers used body holds on the two combative inmates and forced them to the ground.

Once on the ground, handcuffs were applied and the inmates became compliant.

All involved inmates were taken to the infirmary for treatment. One inmate was treated for two small lacerations to his neck consistent with a cutting instrument. All of the inmates face disciplinary charges.

No weapon was recovered.

The second incident occurred on Thursday, April 14 in the facility mess hall. Staff responded to a medical call. Staff ordered all inmates to place their hands on the wall. One inmate refused. An officer approached the inmate and again told him to place his hands on the wall. He refused again. The officer attempted to place the inmate in handcuffs. The inmate grabbed the officer around the waist and pulled the officer’s baton from the holster. Several officers responded and were able to separate the

inmate from the officer and grabbed the baton out of the inmates grip. The inmate was placed in body holds and handcuffs were applied. He continued to kick at staff while being escorted out of the mess hall.

The inmate was brought to the infirmary to be evaluated. Staff removed his restraints. Out of restraints, the inmate immediately swung at one officer, missing him. He was placed in handcuffs again and removed from the infirmary.

The inmate, 21, is serving a nine year sentence after being convicted of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, in Schenectady County in 2021. He faces disciplinary measures.

Two officers were injured in the incident. One officer sustained abrasions and swelling to his knee and elbow. The second officer sustained bruising and swelling to his arm. Both officers were treated by medical staff and remained on duty

“Every day there is another assault on staff or inmate on inmate fight. The violence, which is at an all-time high, is going to continue until our elected officials, who supported HALT, recognize their ill-conceived policies have made our state prisons more dangerous. In both incidents at Great Meadow last week, there is simply no significant discipline left that will deter inmates from engaging in violence. This will continue until the policy makers open their eyes, recognize the violence, and take real steps to protect staff.” – stated John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.