



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

"Keeping New York Safe"

Officers Injured at Upstate Correctional Facility

One Officer Sustains Fractured Hand Breaking Up Inmates Fighting

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2023

Malone, NY – Three officers were injured, including one who fractured his hand, at Upstate Correctional Facility breaking up two inmates who were fighting inside their cell at the maximum security prison.

On Friday, January 6, an officer was serving food to inmates in a cell block. The officer approached one cell and observed two inmates inside the cell exchanging punches. The officer ordered the two inmates to stop fighting and his orders were ignored. The officer administered OC spray to both inmates with no effect. A sergeant and additional officers responded to the cell. Orders to stop fighting were again ignored. The cell door was opened and multiple officers entered the cell. Initially, the officers attempted to separate the two inmates. One inmate was placed in a body hold and handcuffs were applied. Once in handcuffs, the inmate became compliant and was escorted out of the cell. The second inmate remained combative. OC spray was again administered with no effect. Staff placed the inmate in a body hold and handcuffs were applied.

Both inmates were escorted to the infirmary to be decontaminated from the OC spray. One inmate was later transferred to a local hospital for treatment of several lacerations sustained in the fight.

Both inmates face disciplinary charges in the incident.

Three officers sustained injuries in the incident. One officer sustained exposure to blood to his eye and forehead. He was treated at the facility and remained on duty. A second officer sustained hand and finger injuries and remained on duty after treatment by facility medical staff. A third officer was transported to Alice Hyde Medical Center for hand, finger and knuckle injuries. It was determined he sustained a fractured hand.

"It is clearly evident that our members have one of the most dangerous jobs in law enforcement. The record number of inmate on staff and inmate on inmate attacks last year show no sign of slowing down this year. Three officers injured breaking up two inmates fighting and four officers exposed to bodily fluids and blood responding to an inmate medical emergency are a testament to the daily dangers officers face inside our prisons. The level of frustration by the inaction by the State Legislature to address the violence has reached a tipping point and we will continue to fight for the safety of our members until action is taken." - said, John Roberts NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.