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For Immediate Release

Inmates Involved in Fight Outside Mess Hall

Officers Recover Two Makeshift Weapons Used in Fight

Dannemora, NY - Three inmates at Clinton Correctional Facility sustained head and facial lacerations apparently from sharpened toothbrushes after being involved in a two on two fight last Tuesday afternoon at the maximum security prison.

The incident occurred just after 12:00 PM outside the mess hall. An officer heard a loud commotion and observed four inmates exchanging punches and slashing type motions towards each other. The officer ordered the inmates to stop. Two inmates ran towards the mess hall while the other two continued to fight. The officer ordered the two inmates who ran to stop. They refused and kept running. The officer was able to physically take one inmate to the ground and restrained him.

The second inmate ran towards another officer, lowered his shoulder and ran into him trying to get by. The officer was able to get the inmate in a body hold but he continued to struggle. A third officer responded to the scene and was able to assist in getting restraints on the inmate and under control.

The two inmates that were still fighting were ordered again to stop. They eventually complied and got on the floor.

During the investigation officers found two sharpened plastic toothbrushes with strings attached as handles. Each weapon was made of two toothbrushes that were melted together and sharpened on one end. Both weapons were found on the floor underneath one of the inmates.

All four inmates were taken to medical for evaluation. Three inmates had small lacerations that were consistent with being slashed by a weapon. They were treated and returned to their cells. The fourth inmate sustained no injuries.

The inmates and their cells were searched with no additional weapons found. They all face disciplinary charges.

No staff were injured in the incident.

"Tuesday's incident shows how easily inmates can improvise and create weapons out of household items. Confiscated contraband is at an all-time high in our state prisons and NYSCOPBA has long advocated for the resources to be able to detect and seize it before it is used in situations like this. The initial responding officer should be commended for his alert and quick response. With the assistance of the two other officers they were able to quickly stop the fight and minimize the injuries the inmates sustained", said Chris Hansen, Vice President of NYSCOPBA's Northern Region.

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