



## ***Cell Blocks Locked Down After Several Fights at Elmira Correctional Facility***

### ***OC Spray Needed to Quell Several Fights, Makeshift Weapons Found During Searches***

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**Elmira, NY** – Two cell blocks were temporarily locked down at Elmira Correctional Facility following a series of fights involving inmates. The fights occurred over a five day period last week and left several inmates with lacerations from makeshift weapons.

The first fight occurred on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at the maximum security prison. Two inmates engaged in a fight inside of a cell. Officers gave both inmates several orders to stop fighting and the inmates eventually complied. They were both taken to the facility infirmary and treated for lacerations that were consistent with a cutting instrument. Officers searched the inmate's cell and located a three-inch folded aluminum can lid that had a wrapped cellophane handle on one end.

Over the next few days, six additional fights broke out between inmates inside the prison. Several inmates sustained lacerations to the head and face during the fights. The lacerations were also consistent with the use of a cutting type instrument. In one incident, officers located a ceramic scalpel near the scene of the fight.

Officers needed to use OC Spray multiple times in several of the fights when inmates failed to comply with orders and continued fighting.

Two cell blocks were temporarily locked down over the weekend by staff and a search was conducted by officers for contraband inside cells and in common areas of the cell blocks. Officers seized 30 makeshift weapons during the search.

Inmates involved in the incidents were placed in special housing units and face internal disciplinary charges.

"Last week was extremely dangerous for our officers at Elmira Correctional Facility. In what appears to be rival gangs fighting, we were extremely fortunate that only a couple of officers sustained minor injuries containing the violence. The amount of makeshift weapons that were seized during the cell block searches is alarming. Officers face these dangers every day inside our state prisons and the administration must do more to eliminate the ability for these weapons to exist." – Joe Miano, NYSCOPBA Western Region Vice President.