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For Immediate Release

Yard Fight Occurs at Clinton Correctional Facility

Inmate Fight Erupts Into Large Brawl

Dannemora, NY – A four man inmate fight in the recreation yard escalated into upwards of 60 inmates fighting in the North Recreation Yard at the maximum security facility.

The incident occurred on Tuesday, June, 11, at approximately 4:40 p.m. An on-duty sergeant witnessed a four man fight break out in the yard. The fight escalated to a 50-60 man fight among the inmates. Several direct orders were given to the inmates to cease but they would not comply.

A tower officer fired chemical agents into the crowd but it did not have the desired effect and the inmates continued to fight. A second canister was fired into the crowd with no effect. A wind in the yard was pushing the chemical agent away from the fight making it ineffective. In all, officers fired 22 canisters into the fight. After several minutes the inmates complied and stopped fighting.

All inmates in the yard at the time of the fight were removed and brought to several facility buildings. In all, 192 inmates were removed from the yard.

Officers searched the yard after the inmates were removed and found two make-shift weapons on the ground. A third weapon was located on the floor in the gymnasium, one of the buildings the inmates were moved to.

Several inmates sustained lacerations during the fight. They were treated by facility medical staff and transported to a local hospital for further treatment.

No staff were injured and the incident is still under investigation.

“This was an extremely dangerous situation at Clinton yesterday. What started as a small inmate on inmate fight blew up into a full scale brawl. On the heels of three large inmate fights at Auburn, Franklin and Green Haven Correctional facilities in the past couple months, this incident yesterday once again underscores the need to provide a safer environment for staff to work in. Thankfully we didn’t have any staff injured, but the severity of the fight and inmates slashed by other inmates with make-shift weapons should paint a clear picture for the administration.” – said John Roberts, Northern Region Vice President.