



## ***Inmate Fight at Wende Correctional Facility***

### ***Chemical Agents Needed to Stop a Five Man Fight***

**For Immediate Release**

**January 14, 2021**

**Alden, NY** – Correction officers needed to deploy several rounds of OC spray and two rounds of CS gas to quell a mess hall fight between inmates at the maximum security correctional facility.

The fight occurred on Tuesday, January 5 at approximately 12:20 p.m. An officer witnessed two inmates begin to fight in the mess hall and exchange punches. The officer ordered the inmates to stop. A third inmate got up from his chair and attacked one of the inmates. They began to exchange punches. Two other inmates joined in the fight. Officers administered four rounds of OC spray to the fighting inmates but they had no effect and the inmates continued fighting. CS gas was deployed and initially had no effect. A second round of CS gas was deployed and the five inmates complied and stopped fighting.

The inmates were placed in handcuffs and escorted to the infirmary to be decontaminated and treated for minor injuries sustained in the fight. They were placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

Officers recovered a make shift weapon on the floor in the mess hall. A piece of plastic was sharpened on one end and had a taped handle on the other.

"Inmate on inmate assaults continue to escalate inside of our prisons and they put our members at risk for injuries trying to contain them. Over 1200 inmate on inmate assaults occurred in 2020 and there is no reason to expect that number to go down with disciplinary measures reduced to essentially a slap on the wrist. Thankfully the officers utilized chemical agents to eventually stop the fight and no staff were injured." – said Mark Deburgomaster, Western Region Vice President.