



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

***“Keeping New York Safe”***

***Two Large Inmate Fights Occur at Great Meadow Correctional Facility***

***Fights Occur in Recreation Yard at the Facility, Weapons Recovered***

**August 3, 2021**

**Comstock, NY** – Two large multi-man inmate fights occurred in the recreation yard of the maximum security prison in consecutive days in July.

In addition, several inmates became disruptive and threw and burned items in a cell block when staff attempted to move an inmate to a Special Housing Unit after he made threats to an officer.

The first incident occurred on Friday, July 16. An inmate, who made threats against an officer, was being moved to a Special Housing Unit for disciplinary measures. He initially refused to exit his cell. Failing to comply with orders to exit his cell, OC Spray was administered twice to the inmate. He eventually complied and was removed from his cell and placed in a Special Housing Unit.

As staff attempted to get the inmate to exit his cell, several other inmates began throwing items from inside their cells and burning paper. During the incident, one officer had a white powder thrown on his back by an inmate from his cell and a Lieutenant had liquid thrown into the left side of his head by an inmate.

Both inmates were removed from their cell and placed in a Special Housing Unit pending disciplinary charges.

A search of the cell block after the incident recovered a plastic shank sharpened on one end.

The unrest at the prison continued when two multi-man inmate fights broke out in the recreation yard two days later.

On Monday, July 19, with over 200 inmates in the recreation yard at the time, 10 inmates began to fight. Staff gave several orders for the fighting to stop but the inmates ignored the orders. Gas was administered to the yard from one of the officer towers. Staff on the ground needed to administer OC spray to several inmates who broke off from the large group and continued fighting. Once additional staff arrived in the yard, order was restored and the inmates were removed from the yard and placed back in their cells.

A search of the yard recovered two plastic shanks from the ground.

The following day, a multi-man inmate fight broke out in the yard near the inmate phones. Staff gave several orders to the inmates to stop fighting and initially all orders were ignored. Staff in the yard administered several rounds of OC spray to several groups of fighting inmates. After a short time, the inmates complied with orders and ceased fighting.

The inmates were removed from the yard and locked in their cells. They face disciplinary charges in the incident.

Staff recovered contraband from one inmate. During a pat frisk, the inmate voluntarily turned over paper that had been saturated in synthetic marijuana.

No staff were injured in any of the incidents.

“With a lack of any real discipline for inmates who engage in violent, disruptive behavior, these type of large scale incidents will continue across the state at prisons. Simply put, there is no reason for inmates not to act out and attack staff or other inmates with a watered down disciplinary system that doesn’t hold them responsible for their actions. Thankfully, no staff were injured in these three incidents, but that may not be the case in the future.” – Stated John Roberts, NYSCOPBA Northern Region Vice President.