



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **October 14, 2008**

Graduates Finish Academy in Time for Jail Annex Opening

After thirteen weeks of rigorous training, 22 men and women have earned the right to be called Deputy Sheriff at the Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO). This is the largest graduating class that the NNSO has had in recent history.

They make up over half of their total academy class. All said, 40 people are scheduled to graduate Thursday, October 16th. Six agencies, including the NNSO, are represented in the class. Graduation will be held at 4pm at Tabb High School in York County.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office has been actively working toward a solution for the dangerously overcrowded conditions at its downtown City Jail. The forthcoming opening of its Jail Annex, with 105 additional beds, will provide some much needed elbow room. The annex (formerly the old Juvenile Detention on 25th Street) is slated to open in November after renovations are complete.

The timing of hiring and training new deputies was carefully choreographed. It was imperative that the 22 new deputies complete the academy before the annex opens.

WHO: Newport News Sheriff's Office welcomes 22 new deputies
WHAT: Graduation from the Hampton Roads Criminal Justice Training Academy
WHEN: Thursday, October 16, 2008 @ 4:00 p.m.
WHERE: Tabb High School; 4431 Big Bethel Road; York County, VA

We received coverage on the first day of the academy. Orientation day was held July 24th. We hope the graduation ceremony will make a good follow up and bring the story full circle.

Note about the Jail Annex: This will be our inmate programs' jail. The men and women housed here will be enrolled in rehabilitative courses. By offering programs to our inmates, we are helping them gain the tools and skills they need to be productive citizens upon their release. Unless a person is sentenced to die,

sentenced to life without parole, or dies while incarcerated, they are coming home. That means 95% of inmates and prisoners are eventually going to be your neighbor. The question becomes: Do you want them to be a good neighbor or a better criminal?

There is a direct link between the rehabilitation of prisoners and public safety. The philosophy held by the Newport News Sheriff's Office is one of obligation to put corrective action back into the corrections industry. And it will be law abiding citizens who benefit.

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