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Date: 12/17/2015 2:47:58 PM
Subject: FW: FOR APPROVAL: SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 40 NEW TROOPERS

From: Iacobelli, Sherri [mailto:Sherrilacobelli@SCDPS.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 2:47 PM
To: Symmes, Brian
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 40 NEW TROOPERS



South Carolina Department of Public Safety

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 2015

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SC HIGHWAY PATROL GRADUATES 40 NEW TROOPERS

Gov. Nikki Haley Speaks To New Graduates

COLUMBIA -- The South Carolina Highway Patrol announces the graduation of 40 troopers from Highway Patrol Basic Class 97 today. Gov. Nikki Haley addressed the graduates.

"I never miss graduations because I think it is so incredibly important to honor what you have gone through and to talk to you about being part of the South Carolina team," Gov. Haley said.

"With that uniform comes a lot of power. You can't demand respect; you have to earn respect. You are someone that everyone needs to trust. You are the good guys ... I saw that firsthand as we went through three tragedies this past year."

Basic 97 brings the total number of troopers in South Carolina to 772. An additional class will report to the Academy in January to begin the 98th Basic Class. The troopers began training on July 19 and graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy on October 30. An additional five pre-certified officers joined on October 18.

They continued with specialized training from the Highway Patrol in all areas of law enforcement. The SCHP Basic Training Program consists of 21 weeks of extensive law enforcement training in-residence. After graduation, Troopers must complete a minimum of 400 hours of field training.

"As law enforcement faces increasingly varied and complex challenges, we are pleased to welcome this new class of men and women who are well-trained and ready to meet those challenges," said SCDPS Director Leroy Smith.

Troopers are assigned to areas based upon population, calls for service, and the number of licensed drivers/registered vehicles in an area. The troopers from Basic 97 are designated to the counties found in the link below, along with their home counties and photos.

"Today, we welcome 40 troopers to our ranks, and as we do, we encourage them to remember the foundation and legacy of those who came before them," said Highway Patrol Col. Mike Oliver. "It is a privilege to wear this uniform and serve the great State of South Carolina."

At each graduation, the Patrol presents distinguished awards to outstanding troopers from the class. The

winners from the 97th class include:

- **Winner of the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award: Jonathan M. Vandenberg, Home County: Hudsonville, MI; Assignment: Troop 7: Orangeburg/Calhoun.** For the trooper who displays the character and dedication symbolic of former Highway Patrol Colonel P.F. Thompson, the longest serving Patrol commander.
- **Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award: Joshua R. Newsome, Home County: Cheraw; Area of Assignment: Lancaster/Chesterfield;** Presented to the trooper who had the best marksmanship during firearms training;
- **Winner of the Israel Brooks Jr. Physical Fitness Award: Brian D. Hannigan, Home County: West Babylon, NY; Area of Assignment: Troop Six: Colleton/Dorchester;** presented to the trooper who excelled on the physical training test and excelled each day during the early morning exercises. *The South Carolina Department of Public Safety includes the Highway Patrol, State Transport Police, Bureau of Protective Services, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, Immigration Enforcement Unit and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame. Our mission is to ensure public safety by protecting and serving the people of South Carolina and its visitors. www.scdps.gov*

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