



For Immediate Release
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HPD Recognizes Recent Graduates of Leadership Programs

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) is proud to announce the graduation of four supervisors from various leadership training programs.

Lieutenant Chris Rush, special operations commander, graduated on Friday, September 16 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

The FBI National Academy is a 10-week professional course of study for law enforcement managers, who were nominated by their department because of their demonstrated leadership qualities. This program serves to improve their leadership skills in all aspects of law enforcement and supervision, while also including daily physical fitness regimens to the schedule.

“I am excited to be back at HPD to further the success of our department with the knowledge I gained at the National Academy,” explained Lieutenant Chris Rush. “It was an honor to have been selected to participate in this program.”

Upon completion of the program, participants must complete the “Yellow Brick Road,” which is a 6.1 mile run through a wooded trail with hills and obstacles that was built by the Marines.

Approximately one percent of all law enforcement officers are selected and Lt. Rush is the fourth in HPD history to complete the FBI National Academy. This class consisted of 234 students, where 49 of the 50 states were represented in the diverse group of law enforcement officers.

Three other supervisors will graduate today in Richmond, Virginia from the National Criminal Justice Command College through the University of Virginia.

“I am extremely proud of the supervisors who have completed both leadership courses,” explained Police Chief Steve Monticelli. “This is one of the many examples of their commitment to our department and to make Harrisonburg a safer place for all.”

Sergeant Rachel Hammer, **Corporal Chris Monahan**, and **Corporal Chris Watson** participated in this intensive 10-week training program that provided an integrated approach to educating the students on the framework of leadership and collaboration.

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This course was offered in partnership with the Virginia State Police and geared toward mid-level supervisors. They spent two weeks studying each of the following courses: organizational and personal development; leadership, management, and communication; leadership and criminal justice, negotiation and collaboration; and individual and organizational effectiveness.

“This program was challenging and gave me a great foundation for my future in providing leadership to HPD,” explained Corporal Chris Watson. “I was also able to network with many other supervisors in this line of work who will prove to be a valuable resource to our department in the future.”

The National Criminal Justice Command College had 22 students from various agencies throughout Virginia.

On behalf of the city of Harrisonburg, congratulations to Lieutenant Rush, Sergeant Hammer, Corporal Monahan, and Corporal Watson for their dedication to HPD and their commitment to enhancing the knowledge they have to better serve this community.

For the latest news and information on HPD, follow the department on [Facebook](#) or visit their website at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/police.

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