



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PA State Parole Graduates 50 New Agents

HARRISBURG – Fifty men and women graduated from the 127th Basic Training Academy (BTA) of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole today and were assigned to various areas throughout the state.

“Training new agents is one of the most important missions of this agency,” said PBPP Chairman Leo Dunn. “Each agent must have the knowledge, skills, commitment, and fortitude to handle a range of issues – all while using their law enforcement powers with compassion for those they encounter and respecting the laws they enforce.”

“The professional development curriculum is critical to developing the skills of probation and parole staff in achieving the mission of public safety and reducing recidivism,” added Dunn.

The training program now includes:

- EPICS: Effective Practices for Community Supervision is designed to further incorporate evidence-based practices within the confines of a typical offender supervision contact;
- Up-to-date training by medical professionals on infectious diseases, drug and alcohol addictions and recovery programs and mental health issues;
- Enhanced defense tactics to ensure the safety of the agent and the offender;
- Recognition of gangs and other security threat groups;
- Specialized case management of sex offenders and mental health;
- Using risk and needs assessments to assist with successful offender reentry into the community; and
- Training to help assess domestic violence situations and responses to *Protection From Abuse* orders.

“When the joint training program began in 1978, it was basic skills course lasting just five days,” said Dunn. “Now, the training has evolved into a multi-faceted curriculum reflecting the unique nature of agents as part law enforcement officer, part counselor, part social worker and part job counselor.”

The board recognized Brent Smiley as the class valedictorian. Agent Smiley was presented with the honor for achieving the score of 97.6 percent. Agent Nathan Lee received the marksmanship award.

Cynthia Daub, former Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance was the keynote speaker. In addition, Chairman Dunn; Luis Rosa, Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance; and Christian Stephens, Director, Office of Field Probation and Parole Supervision addressed the graduates.

Below is a list of graduates and their new duty stations. They will report to their assignments on November 21.

- Agent John Beech, Pittsburgh DO
- Agent Scott Bomberger, SCI Pittsburgh
- Agent Chad Boughter, Northwest Unit
- Agent Steven Breach, Harrisburg DO
- Agent Harry Byerly, Altoona DO
- Agent Derek Chew, Allegheny Central Unit
- Agent Matthew Cunningham, Pittsburgh DO
- Agent Joseph Eckenrod, Altoona DO
- Agent Amy Fish, Pittsburgh DO
- Agent Francesco Guido, SCI Camp Hill
- Agent William Hanna, SCI Camp Hill
- Agent Geoffrey Harris, Chambersburg SO
- Agent Dennis Hartlove, Lancaster SO
- Agent Brianna Kulp, Northwest Unit
- Agent Adam Kusnerick, Williamsport DO
- Agent William Lawrence, Northeast Unit
- Agent Nathan Lee, Harrisburg DO
- Agent Jeffrey Lilly, Community Corr. Unit
- Agent Jason Lingo, Pittsburgh DO
- Agent John Lorenz, Community Corr. Unit
- Agent Christine McCloskey, SCI Mercer
- Agent Linda Meyers, SCI Waymart
- Agent Joseph Miller, Special Offender Unit
- Agent Kathy Orr, Scranton DO
- Agent Joseph Ortiz, Northeast Unit
- Agent Kayla Parani, Harrisburg DO
- Agent Wesley Parkhurst, Pittsburgh DO
- Agent Edward Pears, SCI Pittsburgh
- Agent Anthony Pfetscher, South Unit
- Agent Angela Price, SCI Mahanoy
- Agent Elizabeth Raup, SCI Muncy
- Agent Melissa Reed, SCI Benner Township
- Agent Bryan Remington, Northwest Unit
- Agent Robert Rich, Erie DO
- Agent Brian Rikli, Scranton DO
- Agent Michael Roberts, Scranton DO
- Agent Vincent Russ, Reading SO
- Agent Kenneth Schnitzer, Chester DO
- Agent Angela Seserko, West Unit
- Agent Brent Smiley, Chambersburg SO
- Agent Jamal Smith, Special Offender Unit
- Agent Sherry Stefanik, East Allegheny Unit
- Agent Brad Swisher, SCI Graterford
- Agent Dane Wagner, East Allegheny Unit
- Agent Michael Ward-Evans, Chester DO
- Agent Dennis Wiederhold, Harrisburg DO
- Agent Katrins Williams, Chester DO
- Agent Nicole Wilson, SCI Waymart
- Agent Jennifer Wolfe, East Allegheny Unit

The graduation ceremony took place at the Department of Corrections Training Academy in Elizabethtown.

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