



the Green sheet

BTA Class #123 graduates 26 new agents

On Friday, November 6, the Basic Training Academy (BTA) Class #123 graduated 26 new parole agents who are now assigned to the Board of Probation and Parole's offices across the state.

The graduation ceremony marked the end of the eight week initial training phase that all new parole agents must successfully complete.

"Today is not the end of a journey, but the beginning of the journey," said keynote speaker Board Member Michael C. Potteiger. "You will be challenged every day to change behavior. Use the resources you have available to you. Use the training you have received here at BTA and in the future. Use both to make our communities safer."

Potteiger also noted that BTA Class #123 is the first class to be trained in EPICS, Effective Practices in Community Supervision.

EPICS is a structured approach to offender interaction by an agent in which there are four components:

One - Check-In: the agent determines if the offender has any crises or acute needs, builds rapport and discusses compliance issues.

Two – Review: focuses on the skills discussed in the prior session, the application of those skills, and troubleshooting continued problems in the use of those skills.



Board Member Michael Potteiger addresses the BTA graduating class.



At right, Director Cynthia Daub speaks to the graduates about the career path they have chosen.

Three – Intervention: the agent identifies continued areas of need, trends in problems the offender's experiences, teaches relevant skills, and targets problematic thinking.

Four - Homework and Rehearsal: the offender is given an opportunity to practice the new skill with a homework assignment and is given instructions to follow before the next visit.



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*Greg Young
Director of Training*

Director of Training Greg Young gave his congratulations to all of the graduates and said, "If you attack your jobs the way you attacked your training, you will be very successful."

Director of the Office of Reentry and Quality Assurance Cynthia Daub offered this advice to the new agents. "You will have successes and you will have road blocks," Daub said. "You have signed up to help offenders.

"Be a positive influence. Plant a seed. Make a difference," Daub added. "Be a leader."

Director of the Office of Field Probation and Parole Supervision Daniel McIntyre gave his insight to the graduates.

"It's not about the tool belt: the gun, the Taser or the cuffs," McIntyre said. "It's about the soft stuff. The interpersonal skills. The training that you have received. It is these 'soft' skills that will matter the most.

"There are three types of agents: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happened," McIntyre concluded. "Be the agent that makes it happen."

New Agent Michalsky is already making it "happen." Michalsky left BTA for a week because he had already successfully completed defensive tactics. While at his assigned district office, he asked his supervisor if he could be actively involved with any and all aspects of the job



Director Daniel McIntyre gives his remarks at graduation.



Lou Perez (left) and Director Cynthia Daub (right) with Top Gun Agent Diethorn.

The Class Valedictorian was Agent Zborovian, who is assigned to the Harrisburg District Office. Over the eight-week BTA, Agent Zborovian averaged a 98.429 percent on her test scores.

Congratulations to all 26 agents of BTA Class #123.



Director Daniel McIntyre (left) and BTA Training Director Lou Perez (right) recognize Agent Michalsky for the illegal drug recovery in the field.

while he was there. Agent Michalsky partnered with Agent Fine. They went to an offender's home to conduct a search and recovered 830 stamp bags of heroin.

Another first for BTA Class #123 was the top two award spots for the class – the Marksmanship-Top Gun Award and the Class Valedictorian were awarded to females.

The Top Gun Award was awarded to Agent Diethorn who is assigned to the Pittsburgh District Office.



Lou Perez (left) and Director Cynthia Daub (right) with Class Valedictorian Agent Zborovian.