



Division of Capitol Police News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Four newest Va. Capitol Police officers graduate from academy

HOPEWELL – The Virginia Division of Capitol Police grew by four officers Thursday with their graduation from the 102nd Basic Law Enforcement Academy of the Crater Criminal Justice Training Academy.

The 22-member Crater class honored during a ceremony at the Hopewell Moose Lodge included new Capitol Police officers Urvish J. Gajjar of Henrico, Jonathan B. Higgins of Richmond, Robert D. Rodriguez of Mechanicsville and Dominic A. Ross of Glen Allen. A fifth Capitol Police recruit in the 102nd, Jaden X. Fowler of Henrico, is expected to finish his course requirements in the coming weeks.

The members of the 102nd spent about six months at the Crater academy in Prince George County covering more than 1,300 Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services-mandated training objectives.

In addition to completing the academy's graduation requirements, one of the Capitol Police graduates, Gajjar, was recognized for exceptional achievement. Gajjar received the R.A. Stout Physical Fitness Award for demonstrating the greatest improvement in physical conditioning over the course of the academy session.

“Choosing law enforcement is a difficult decision that requires you to have the ability to serve an increasingly diverse community,” said Col. John T. McKee, the Capitol Police chief. “But even in a world that is constantly changing and becoming more complicated, the basic tenet of service to others remains as a guide.

“These five are to be saluted for choosing to serve their communities, to put others ahead of themselves and to make individual sacrifices for the betterment of those they are sworn to protect. I couldn’t be more proud of them, and I look forward to them joining their fellow officers serving the elected officials, employees and visitors in and around Capitol Square.”

The Capitol Police graduates will report next week to Capitol Square, where they will work with division-certified training officers to learn the specifics of their new assignments.



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