



For Immediate Release

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Government and Media Relations

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25th K-9 Graduating Class Highlights Busy Day

OLYMPIA, Wash. – With a little over a week before graduation ceremonies of Washington State Patrol's 110th Trooper Basic Training Class at the Capitol Rotunda, the WSP hosted another graduation Tuesday at the Helen Sommers Building in Olympia, Wash. It was a day highlighted by the dogs.

The WSP hosted ceremonies for the 25th class of the SHCAT K-9 training for six handlers and their partners. The K-9 graduation was part of a busy day of celebrations in Olympia. The WSP also honored graduates of the latest Motorcycle Basic Training class as well as promotions for five WSP employees.

Media Links:

- Full Release on InsideOut: <https://wp.me/p4ofGt-1et>
- Photos (w/ cutlines): https://www.dropbox.com/sh/zs7shn6l0fv935d/AADdQ-88_t7SEgcMzZWAY8Bda?dl=0
- Video: <https://youtu.be/vQBfJcK11B8>
- Facebook Live Video: <https://bit.ly/2rmT8Rv>

The WSP has one of the largest non-federal K9 programs in the country, with dozens of K9s deployed throughout the state. The program also trains handlers and K-9 partners from other agencies. This class was trained in narcotic detection as part of the Serious Highway Criminal Apprehension Team (SHCAT).

25th SHCAT K-9 Graduating Class:

- Trooper Jermaine Walker and K-9 Cable, WSP District 1
- Trooper Patrick Williams and K-9 Bo, WSP District 2
- Trooper Justin Schaffer and K-9 Frankie, WSP District 5
- Trooper Ben Bryan and K-9 Kyha, WSP District 8
- Sergeant Keith Cooper and K-9 Ginger, Whitman County Sheriff's Office
- Detective Natalie Mounts and K-9 Ginger, Auburn Police Department

Also graduating was the latest class of the rigorous Motorcycle Basic Training. The WSP has the largest motorcycle unit in the state with 42 assigned primarily to the I-5 corridor. The latest class includes:

- Trooper Chris Hendrickson, WSP District 1

- Trooper Kyle Lindermann, WSP District 5
- Trooper Andres Martinez, WSP District 3
- Trooper Tyler Preston, WSP District 5
- Trooper Chris Virant, WSP District 1

The WSP also held promotion ceremonies, honoring:

- Lieutenant Tyler M. Drake, Investigative Assistance Division promoted to Captain, Property Management Division
- Mr. Chad L. Cross, Assistant Division Commander/Fire Training Academy promoted to Assistant State Fire Marshal, Fire Training Academy
- Mr. Kelly R. Merz, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal/Fire Training Academy promoted to Assistant Division Commander, Fire Training Academy
- Sergeant Gabriel P. Olson, Bellevue promoted to Lieutenant, Investigative Assistance Division
- Communications Officer 3 Amelia J. Cooper, Marysville promoted to Communications Officer 4, Bellevue.

110th Trooper Basic Training Class Graduation – Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018

Graduation ceremonies for the 100th Trooper Basic Training Class will be held Thursday, Dec. 13 in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building beginning at 2 p.m. For media interested in covering the ceremonies, please contact John Shaffer.