



For Immediate Release

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

October 30, 2024

Contact: Sergeant Jermaine Walker
Phone: (253) 312-8880
Email: Jermaine.Walker@wsp.wa.gov

WSP's 119th Trooper Basic Training Class graduates 30 new troopers

Olympia, Wash. – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) added 30 newly commissioned troopers to its ranks today during the 119th Trooper Basic Training (TBTC) graduation ceremony held at the state Capitol Rotunda.

The graduation marks the completion of more than 1,400 hours of rigorous training, including classroom and practical exercises at the WSP Academy in Shelton. The training culminated with a coaching trip where the cadets worked the roads alongside field training officers.

The combined efforts of the 119th TBTC class resulted in 6,899 driver contacts, 2,208 calls for service, the removal of 348 impaired drivers from our roadways, and 731 collision investigations during their two-month long coaching trip.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven C. González swore in the new troopers as the rotunda erupted with applause and cheers from family, friends, and colleagues.

Chief John R. Batiste, a member of the 55th Trooper Basic Training Class, thanked the new troopers and their families for their dedication to being a part of the future of the agency.

“The journey’s been long, and the journey’s been hard,” Chief John Batiste said to the graduates during Wednesday’s ceremony. “I want to thank you, I want to congratulate you, and wish you well.”

Chief Batiste alongside Governor Jay Inslee congratulated each graduate, providing them with their commission cards signifying they were now officially a commissioned WSP trooper.

“No matter what the future holds, we will go through it together,” Chief Batiste said to the families and the newly commissioned troopers.

WSP Academy Captain Robert W. Sharpe recognized several members of the class for excelling in aspects of specific skills and abilities, including:

Top Academic Award: Trooper Cecilia Mains

This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest-grade point average compiled more than 30 exams and quizzes. The award was officially re-named in honor of WSP fallen Trooper Christopher Gadd, who also received the award as a member of the 116th TBTC.

Top Driving Award: Trooper Joshua Gaydeski

This award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills, techniques, decision-making, mindset, and the steady and constant improvement through each phase of drive training.

Top Firearms Award: Trooper Christopher Sebastian

This award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapons systems, marksmanship scores, skills, and demonstration of sound judgement during practical encounter scenarios.

Top Physical Fitness Award: Trooper Christopher Sebastian

This award recognizes the highest level of drive and tenacity in physical fitness testing and training. The recipient of this award consistently performed at the top of the TBTC during physical training. The award is named in honor of Trooper Kristopher Sperry, who tragically died off-duty during a house fire in 2010. Trooper Sperry received the Physical Fitness Award as a member of the 97th TBTC.

Top Control Tactics Award: Trooper Drew Iverson

This award recognizes the highest level of proficiency in control tactics techniques, to include self-defense, handcuffing, searching, and the use of force thought process.

Top Collision Investigation Award: Trooper Claudia Travis

This award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork.

Top Communications Award: Trooper Christopher Sebastian

This award recognizes the highest level of efficiency of radio communications knowledge, based upon testing and practical exercises.

Top Overall Cadet Award: Trooper Grace Wallace

This award recognizes the trooper cadet who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused in reaching their goals and their ability to give 100 percent in every aspect of their training. Trooper Wallace demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgement to be an excellent trooper, and made the efforts to make continuous improvements.

Core Values Award: Trooper Joshua Gaydeski

The Core Values Award is determined by the anonymous vote of the members of the 119th TBTC, who chooses the classmate they feel best exemplified the training division's core values of strong leadership, effective partnerships, professional excellence, acting with integrity and accountability, respecting and protecting individual rights, and earning the trust and confidence of the public.

The Core Values Award is sponsored by the WSP Memorial Foundation, and presented in honor of the WSP troopers who gave their life in the line of duty. Today's award was given in honor of Trooper Christopher Gadd, who died in the line of duty on March 2, 2024. Trooper Gadd's wife, Camryn Gadd, presented the award to Trooper Joshua Gaydeski.

###

The WSP 119th TBTC graduating class:

Name	Assignment
Aguinaldo, Alexander Giann A.	District 7 - Monroe
Bickford, Neil E.	District 2 - Bellevue
Bravo-Gutierrez, Imanol	District 7 - Monroe
Choi, Jisu	District 7 - Marysville
Cotton, Jacob D.	District 1 - Tacoma
Denny, Kelii	District 1 - Tacoma
Ellis, Henry V.	District 6 - Moses Lake
Erwin, Joey M.	District 6 - Moses Lake
Gaydeski, Joshua S.	District 1 - Tacoma
Guting, Tara-Marysa M.	District 1 - Tacoma
Iverson, Drew W.	District 1 - Gig Harbor
Jasmine Jr., Jeffrey S.	District 6 - Okanogan
Keller, Patrick R.B.	District 7 - Bellingham
Klever, Harison R.	District 1 - Gig Harbor
Knutsen, Tara L.	District 1 - Tacoma
Kunder, Ransom K.	District 6 - Okanogan
LaTourette, Sean D.	District 7 - Marysville
League, Jadyne A.	District 7 - Monroe
Mains, Cecilia R.	District 5 - Goldendale
Martinez, Jaidan J.	District 7 - Bellingham
Miera, Ryan L.	District 7 - Monroe
Rojo, Gabriel	District 1 - Gig Harbor
Sebastian, Christopher D.	District 7 - Bellingham
Tandal, Isaiah K.	District 8 - Shelton
Tkachuk, Eduard O.	District 1 - Tacoma
Trampe, Benjamin I.	District 2 - Bellevue
Travis, Claudia M.	District 2 - Bellevue
Turley, Noah R	District 7 - Bellingham
Wallace, Grace I.	District 2 - Bellevue
Ziesemer, Joshua J.	District 1 - Olympia