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## Department of Correction Graduates its 217<sup>th</sup> Academy

Dover, DE — In a ceremony this afternoon, The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) graduated and assigned 39 employees from its Correctional Employee Initial Training (CEIT) academy. The graduates took the oath of office and received their assignments in front of family, friends, and DOC officials. CEIT class #217 consisted of 30 Correctional Officers, 4 Correctional Counselors, 1 Trades Instructor, and 4 Food Service Specialists. The ceremony featured remarks by DOC Commissioner Perry Phelps, training staff, Chaplain Gus Christo, and inspirational words from class speaker William Denis. It also included the presentation of the Outstanding Cadet award to Correctional Officer Jeremiah Purnell.

Members of CEIT class #217 completed nine weeks of training, including hands-on and classroom sessions in a multitude of areas. Areas of concentration included inmate supervision, weapons and chemical munitions, defensive tactics, emergency preparedness, report writing, substance abuse training, CPR/Basic First Aid, and inter-personal communication. They will now join the ranks of more than 2,500 employees who uphold the Department's mission of protecting the public by supervising nearly 7,000 adult offenders in facilities throughout the state.

During today's CEIT graduation, Commissioner Phelps presented to the son of Sergeant Steven R. Floyd a Department of Correction Medal of Valor and announced the posthumous promotion of Sergeant Floyd to the rank of Lieutenant. After the above commemorative presentation, Commissioner Phelps concluded this portion of the ceremony with the following statement: "Please know we mourn beside you." In further honor of Lieutenant Floyd's dedicated service, Governor Carney provided a statement.

"Lieutenant Floyd was a dedicated member of our law enforcement community who, for 16 years, accepted the challenge of doing a difficult but important job for the people of our state," said Governor John Carney. "We owe him a debt of gratitude. Along with his family and the rest of Delaware, we continue to mourn his loss. As we honor Lieutenant Floyd, we will commit ourselves to ensuring that our correctional facilities remain secure and our employees remain safe."

In closing, Commissioner Perry Phelps commended the graduates and provided words of encouragement as they embark upon their law enforcement career. "To CEIT 217, it takes a lot of guts to sit here today. You recognize that this line of work can be dangerous and you show tremendous dedication to the Department and your classmates. On behalf of the DOC, I want to recognize your courage and thank you for dedicating yourself to a life of public service, Phelps said."

The instruction team for CEIT Class #217 consisted of Staff Lieutenant Bernell Williams, Lieutenant Matthew Hopp, Lieutenant Dean Edge, Corporal Keenan Hutchins, and Corporal Lemuel Ross. A photo of today's graduates is attached. Seated in the front row are: DOC Commissioner Perry Phelps, Corporal Hutchins, Staff Lieutenant Williams, Lieutenant Hopp, Corporal Ross and Bureau of Prisons Chief Chris Klein.

An alphabetical list of graduating cadets is below:

Barclay, Darius M.  
Bland, Anebliay N. M.  
Bowman, Zachary U.  
Brady, Cory E. L.  
Brown, Sierra L.  
Burke, Ashley K.  
Byrd III, Otha L.  
Campbell, Tyler M.  
Clark, Carl (Food Service)  
Cooper, Shakira M.  
Crumpton, Christopher M.  
Cruz-Ortiz, Tighmesha P.  
Fountain II, Reuben E.  
Francis, Keefer A.  
Graney, Foster R.  
Halim, Qulena Y.  
Jarman, Joseph A. (Food Service)  
Jenkins, Markiem  
Klingensmith, Kristel P.  
Kobus, Eric C. D.  
Le, Long P.  
McAfee, Amanda M.  
Miller, Brandon N.  
Nelson, Angela D.  
Njweipi, Mbong A.  
Potter, Travis W.  
Powell, Eric L.  
Purnell, Jeremiah R.

Robinson, Joseph  
Rosario, Elliot  
Teet, Rashaad R. (Food Service)  
Tolbert, Scott E. (Trades Instructor)  
Ullman, Tyler E.  
Yannibelli, Tracy G. (Food Service)

**Correctional Counselors**

Cecchini, Janelle  
Orr, Rebecca  
Price, NancyDenis, William L.  
Tusio, Amanda

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