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Department of Correction Graduates its 20th Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC)

Dover, DE – Joined by Bureau Chief Jim Elder, friends and family, 16 men and women graduated from the 20th Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) with the Delaware Department of Correction today. This academy class consisted of 11 new Probation Officers that were sworn in today. They were also accompanied during portions of their training by one Correctional Counselor, one Community Work Program Coordinator, one Paralegal, one Correctional Sergeant, who received training as a member of the Escapee Recovery Team, and one Senior Probation Officer from the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families who will join their Serious Juvenile Offender Unit.

Today's ceremony included remarks from Bureau Chief Jim Elder, Chaplain Rory Russell, Training Administrator Jodie Hunter, and class speaker Adam Solloway. It also included the presentation of the Outstanding Cadet awarded to Officer LaRee Jalot. Chief Elder recognized the families of each graduate and thanked them for the support and encouragement shown to the cadets over the thirteen-week training academy. The academy provided a foundation of knowledge, skills, and techniques required to effectively supervise and manage adult offenders in the community. Among the topics addressed are conditions of supervision, offender assessments, victim services, weapons training, defensive tactics, offender contact, substance abuse training, and CPR/Basic First Aid.

Chief Elder congratulated the graduates and provided words of encouragement to the group as they embark upon their career in law enforcement. "As you've learned in your training, the DOC has a dual mission of public safety and rehabilitation. We cannot ignore one or the other; and neither can be achieved unilaterally," he said. "We owe it to ourselves and to the people of Delaware we serve to ensure probationers are returned to society better than when they were when placed into the Department's custody."

The instructional team for BOTC Class 20 consisted of Instructor Eric Eldridge and Drill Instructor LaTanya Smith. A photo of today's graduates is attached.

The graduates begin their new careers with the Delaware Department of Correction next week.

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