



Schenectady Police Department

ERIC S. CLIFFORD, CHIEF OF POLICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 8, 2020

NEWS RELEASE

Schenectady Police Lieutenant Graduates from FBI National Academy

The Schenectady Police Department is proud to announce that Lieutenant James Sanders has graduated from the FBI's National Academy (FBINA) on December 20, 2019, earning him a spot among other Schenectady Police Department graduates, Chief Eric S. Clifford (Session 274), Assistant Chief Michael J. Seber (Session 197) and Assistant Chief Jack Falvo Jr. (Session 219). A total of 52,540 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, Virginia, the same facility where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.

Lieutenant Sanders was part of the 278th Session to complete the rigorous academy, where command level officers are nominated due to their demonstrated leadership qualities. Officers form partnerships and friendships with other academy classmates who hail from other states and countries. In the past, these relationships have proven invaluable, as colleagues have relied on each other to help solve homicides, kidnappings and bank robberies across state lines and internationally. Chief Clifford nominated Lieutenant Sanders to attend the academy, following the advice given to him by the late Public Safety Commissioner Wayne E. Bennett, who strongly encouraged his administration to complete the academy while serving as the superintendent of the New York State Police.

During the 10-week course, Lieutenant Sanders completed graduate level courses pertaining to leadership, media, psychology, and intelligence theory. He also endured demanding fitness challenges, including the 'Yellow Brick Road.' The 'Yellow Brick Road' fitness challenge involves a 6.1-mile run over a hilly trail, which was built by the United States Marine Corps. Along the run, participants must scale walls, jump through simulated windows, and crawl under barbed wire obstacles.

Reflecting back on his time at the Academy, Lt Sanders said, "I was honored and humbled that Chief Clifford nominated me to attend this training. It was an amazing experience that has provided me with advanced skills and knowledge. I look forward to utilizing these new attributes to assist in the continued effort to make the Schenectady Police Department one of the most professional in the nation."



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“The FBI National Academy is the premier executive training for law enforcement. Completing the training and joining the global network of law enforcement leader’s shows the dedication Lieutenant Sanders has towards improving the leadership and operations at the Schenectady Police Department. On behalf of the agency, I congratulate Lieutenant Sanders on this professional accomplishment,” Chief Clifford said upon Lieutenant Sanders return.

When asked about Lieutenant Sanders’ recent graduation, Commissioner Michael Eidens stated “Lt. Sanders’ accomplishment is a tribute to his work ethic and commitment to professionalism, and reflects well on him and the police department. We congratulate him. Lt. Sanders’ knowledge and training in the best and most current policing practices offered by the Academy will enhance the Schenectady Police Department’s ability to protect and serve our City.”

In addition to their training, students raised approximately \$18,000 during the session for Concerned for Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.).



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