

Honor Guard Attends 2008 National Police Week

In May, eight members of the Washington State Patrol Honor Guard traveled to Washington D.C. for the 2008 National Police Week.

A busy schedule, and changing weather, forced the Honor Guard to improvise and adapt as they attended many events, honored the memories of the fallen officers at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, competed in the Honor Guard Competition, and took their turn at the "wreath watch."

At the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, the Honor Guard remembered each of the 26 fallen officers by placing their pictures above their names, after which they performed a short memorial ceremony.

The Officer-in-Charge of the 2008 National Police Week opening ceremony was impressed by the Honor Guard. He asked the team to provide official escort for the families being honored at this year's opening ceremony.

After earning the silver medal in this year's Honor Guard competition, the team was again asked to provide official escort during the wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S. Capitol for some of the families of the officers who died in the line of duty in 2007. Just fewer than 200 officers made the ultimate sacrifice in 2007.

Once the wreath was in place at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial, a "wreath watch" was formed. The wreath was guarded constantly, night and day, until the close of National Police Week. The team received the honor and privilege to stand guard over the wreath for a time on Thursday night.

When the 2008 National Police Week was over, the Honor Guard had participated in every event possible and had the distinct honor of being selected to lead many of those events. They had spoken with hundreds of people about our Honor Guard, the Washington State Patrol, and the state of Washington in general. This trip was made possible in part by Washington State Patrol Troopers Association, Washington State Patrol Memorial Fund, and the State Patrol.



(Top) The Honor Guard on the steps of Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. during the 2008 National Police Week.
(Middle) The team performs a ceremony at each officer's name at the National Law Enforcement Memorial.
(Bottom) Trooper Pete Stock escorts a family member of a fallen officer during the wreath-laying ceremony.

WSP Honor Guard Wins the Silver Medal in National Honor Guard Competition

The Washington State Patrol Honor Guard took 2nd place at the National Police Honor Guard Competition during the 2008 National Police Memorial Week in Washington D.C. The Honor Guard was in D.C. from May 11 to 16, and while there, the team participated in the Honor Guard competition and the National Police Week Memorial Ceremony.

The competition consisted of three phases: uniform inspections, color posting ceremony, and exhibition. During the uniform inspection phase, soldiers from the U.S. Army's Old Guard, who are responsible for



Trooper Chad Hoff and Detective Sergeant John-Paul Sager led the team onto the parade field during the Honor Guard competition.



(Top) The Honor Guard performs their rifle drill routine during the "open" portion of the competition where they demonstrate their drill and ceremony and precision skills.

(Bottom) The team's uniforms are inspected by Soldiers from the U.S. Army's Old Guard.

guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, inspected the teams. The second phase of the competition was focused on which team best followed flag protocol during a colors posting ceremony. Lastly, the teams were given eight minutes to demonstrate their drill and ceremony skills and their precision teamwork.

The Honor Guard competed against 22 teams representing police agencies from across the U.S. and Canada. WSP Honor Guard was the only state law enforcement agency to earn a medal. The U.S. Border Patrol took the gold medal and the Washington D.C. Capitol Police took the bronze (3rd place).

The team that went to Washington D.C. consisted of eight troopers who volunteered many hours outside their normal police duties to practice and rehearse for this competition. The WSP Memorial Foundation, WSP Troopers Association, and State Patrol sponsored the Honor Guard's trip to D.C.

The Honor Guard is looking for more volunteers. Membership in the Honor Guard can create enhancement opportunities, along with career-long camaraderie with the other members and the opportunity to work with and develop friendships with other police units throughout the United States and Canada. If interested in joining the WSP Honor Guard, contact Detective Sergeant John-Paul Sager.