



For Immediate Release

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40 Washington State Patrol Troopers Sworn In

At a ceremony held in the Capitol Rotunda this afternoon, 40 Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers were sworn in by Chief Justice Mary E. Fairhurst of the Washington State Supreme Court. They were presented their commission cards by Governor Jay Inslee and Chief John R. Batiste, who welcomed them into an organization known and trusted by the citizens of Washington State.

After completing over 1,000 hours of training, these men and women will join Washington's premier law enforcement organization. The Washington State Patrol Academy produces approximately three cadet classes each biennium, which accounts for about 100 to 120 new troopers. Historically, only about four to six percent of the total number of applicants makes the grade to become WSP troopers. "The 40 cadets graduating today endured a rigorous application process, extensive background investigation, and received the best training, unmatched anywhere else in the nation," said Chief John Batiste. "Today, they will join the ranks of Washington's finest, as troopers of the Washington State Patrol."

A tradition that began 97 years ago on June 21, 1921, when six brave men kick-started their Indian motorcycles, strapped on an arm band, and started a proud tradition known today as the Washington State Patrol. The tradition continues to this day with the graduation of the 109th Trooper Basic Training Class at the Capitol Rotunda, signaled by the stream of shiny white patrol vehicles parked in the lanes leading up to the Capitol steps.

During the ceremony, the Core Values Award was presented to **Trooper Kameron D. Watts**. This award is presented to the trooper cadet who most typifies the Training Division Core Values which include: 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 recipient of this award was determined by an anonymous vote of his classmates, and is sponsored by the Washington State Patrol Memorial Foundation. This award honors the most recent State Patrol employee to give his life in service to the citizens of the state of Washington. Trooper Brent L. Hanger died in the line of duty on August 6, 2015. The award was presented today in Trooper Hanger's honor by his wife, Lisa Hanger. In addition to this award, Chief Batiste presented six trooper cadets with awards at a ceremony held on June 5, 2018, during an open house at the WSP Academy.

These awards included:

Top Driving Award

Presented to Trooper Casey Klein; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with respect to driving skills and techniques, decision-making and mind-set, and steady and constant improvement through each phase of drivers training.

Top Firearms Award

Presented to Trooper Stephen F. O'Brien; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency with all weapon systems, marksmanship scores and skills, and demonstration of sound judgment during practical encounter scenarios.

Top Physical Fitness/Top Control Tactics Award

Presented to Trooper Andrew T. Wilson; 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 Trooper Basic Training Class during physical training. In addition, this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency in control tactics techniques, to include self-defense, handcuffing, searching and use of force thought process.

Top Academic Award

Presented to Trooper Riley D. Wyatt; this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of the cadet who attains the highest grade point average compiled from over 30 tests and quizzes during training. The class average GPA for the 109th Trooper Basic Training Class was 89%; Trooper Riley's GPA was an impressive 97%.

Top Collision Investigation Award

Presented to Trooper Josiah K. Hanks; this award recognizes the highest level of proficiency regarding collision investigation, including mathematical computation, scene investigation, information and evidence gathering, report writing, and teamwork.

Top Overall Cadet Award

Presented to Trooper Kyle J. Dussault; this award recognizes the trooper cadet who demonstrated great courage to overcome obstacles, unwavering dedication to stay focused on reaching their goals, and their ability to give 100% in every aspect of their training. Trooper Dussault demonstrated the necessary skills, abilities, and judgment to be an excellent trooper, and he made extra efforts to make continuous improvements.

	Name	Number	Final Assignment	Home Town
1	Andrews, Gregory	1222	District 1 Olympia	Olympia, WA
2	Atkinson, Dean E.	1197	District 6 Basin	Walla Walla, WA
3	Baker, Alec J.	1200	District 6 Okanogan	Newman Lake, WA
4	Beard, Dexter M.	976	District 6 Okanogan	Everson, WA
5	Bratlien, Brian D.	1017	District 7 Monroe	Bellingham, WA
6	Buitenbos, Luke R.	1199	District 7 Burlington	Lynden, WA
7	Carlson, David L.	1246	District 8 Hoquiam	Olympia, WA
8	Coblentz, Mark J.	1018	District 8 Hoquiam	McCleary, WA
9	Dussault, Kyle J.	1155	District 7 Burlington	Mt. Vernon, WA
10	Elliot, Blake E.	994	District 7 Monroe	Snohomish, WA
11	Fath, Cody M.	991	District 6 Basin	Puyallup, WA
12	Grandstaff, Jake F.	1025	District 3 Pomeroy	Walla Walla, WA
13	Hanks, Josiah K.	594	District 3 Grandview	Yakima, WA

14	Holland, Tanner J.	303	District 7 Burlington	Lynden, WA
15	Hooks, Christopher J.	1150	District 2 Bellevue	Redmond, WA
16	Hudson, Brendon T.	1170	District 2 Bellevue	Sequim, WA
17	Jones, Adrian L.	1024	District 6 Basin	Spokane, WA
18	Jordan, Matthew M.	636	District 1 Tacoma	Puyallup, WA
19	Kennedy, Ian	1008	District 7 Monroe	Marysville, WA
20	Klein, Casey	1154	District 7 Monroe	Arlington, WA
21	Knight, Malik V.	668	District 2 Bellevue	Federal Way, WA
22	Mason, Travis A.	875	District 6 Okanogan	Mt. Vernon, WA
23	Montano, Benjamin	623	District 2 Bellevue	Moxee, WA
24	Moore, Anthony E.	1245	District 8 Forks	Auburn, WA
25	Moyer, Kimberly N.	755	District 7 Monroe	Mt. Vernon, WA
26	O'Brien, Stephen F.	329	District 1 Tacoma	Bremerton, WA
27	Plough, Jed T.	1015	District 7 Monroe	Snohomish WA
28	Plumb, Justin D.	1043	District 2 Bellevue	Port Orchard, WA
29	Rediger, Bret A.	1040	District 7 Monroe	Everson, WA
30	Rowland, Amber A.	1022	District 1 Tacoma	Bremerton WA
31	Russell, Dakota J.	712	District 5 Chehalis	Centralia, WA
32	Sanchez-Benitez, Alejandro J.	985	District 2 Bellevue	Seattle, WA
33	Schwilke, Lyndon A.	1011	District 2 Bellevue	Camas, WA
34	Shaw, Trevor J.	964	District 2 Bellevue	Everett, WA
35	Sowards, Evan J.	706	District 1 Tacoma	Puyallup, WA
36	Stanley, Kirk C.	1023	District 2 Bellevue	Port Orchard, WA
37	Watts, Kameron D.	1006	District 1 Tacoma	Tacoma, WA
38	Wilson, Andrew T.	856	District 6 Ellensburg	Pullman, WA
39	Woolery, Tanner L.	983	District 6 Ellensburg	Shelton, WA
40	Wyatt, Riley D.	837	District 3 Grandview	Yakima, WA

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