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Schoharie Reservoir - New York City Water Supply System

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DEP Graduates 43 New Environmental Protection Police Officers

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will induct 43 officers from the third class of cadet graduates of the Department's Environmental Police Academy. The graduation ceremony will take place on Friday, May 21 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ulster County Community College, Cottekill Road, Stone Ridge, New York. Today's class brings the members in DEP's environmental police force, including those previously serving, to over 200.

Commissioner Ward said, "We rely heavily on our DEP police force to protect our water supply that serves 9 million New Yorkers – nearly one-half the population of our State. Our cadets have gone through an intense and stringent training in environmental law enforcement and protection, and I want to thank our Academy staff --Captain Frank J. Milazzo and Assistant Police Chief Mark Benedetto – along with our Academy instructors who include watershed county police, New York State Forest Rangers, county sheriffs, DEP watershed staff and attorneys, members of DEP's environmental police force and the Riverkeeper for their time and commitment. It gives me great pleasure to welcome the new members to our force and wish them well as future guardians of the safety of our water supply system."

In 2003, DEP Police were called upon over 250 times to assist other police agencies in the City's watershed. They responded to over 300 traffic accidents and aided in 97 incidents where medical assistance was necessary. This was in addition to investigating nearly 700 environmental complaints, while performing their main tasks of protecting the water supply relied upon by one-half of New York State. Additionally, the DEP Police also supplement the work of local police agencies in their day-to-day activities of community service and public protection.

DEP's Environmental Police Academy, launched in 2002, was the first of its kind in the nation to provide training, experience and concentrated course work in advanced police tactics and use of state-of-the art equipment and environmental protection. Recruits undergo twenty weeks of intensive training in environmental law and police administration, which includes basic police training in laws of arrest, use of force, justification, firearms, defensive

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tactics, terrorism and police science. In addition, recruits must complete courses in environmental conservation law training in lands and forests, fish and wildlife, stream protection and fresh water wetlands.

DEP Police Chief Ed Welch will attend the ceremony and Lt. Brian Handy, Director of the DEP Environmental Police Academy, will preside. Refreshments will be served. Reporters are welcome to attend.

The Environmental Police Officer graduates are:

Gregory Allen  
Rigoberto Arenas  
Shamieka Barreto  
Ian W. Beecher  
Christopher Beltran  
Salvatore Cerniglia  
Kevin Collins  
William C. Detlefs  
Dilma Diaz  
Edward J. Edwards  
James M. Feldbauer  
Antonio J. Fernandez  
Astacia R. Francis  
Randall Hurlbert  
Ivor Jordan  
James D. Kochon  
Jillien Lawrence  
Robert S. Lundy  
Kenneth Macumber Jr.  
Michael P. Marron  
John Mattice  
Benjamin P. Monell  
Marc Muniz  
Gianfranco Nuccio  
John P. O'Sullivan  
Frank Patch  
Shaun A. Pile  
Joanna T. Pryer  
Wilfredo Ramos  
Lynn Reed  
Hector N. Reyes  
Lisa Robinson  
Joaquin Romaguera  
Jason Rossi  
Frankie Serrano  
Gary R. Short  
Annette Suarez  
Marsha Thomas  
John Toscano  
Steven Whittick  
Chatoyer Woodland  
Hasan Uz Zaman  
Aubrey Zephyr