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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 17-2
January 6, 2017
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Department of Environmental Protection Announces Graduation of 19 New Police Officers



Graduates will join force of more than 200 highly trained officers who protect New York City’s water supply and water supply infrastructure every day


Photos from the Ceremony are Available on [DEP’s Flickr Page](#)

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today celebrated the graduation of 19 new police officers who were trained at the Staff Sgt. Robert H. Dietz DEP Police Academy in Kingston, New York. The new officers will be immediately deployed to protect the City’s water supply reservoirs, infrastructure, and the 2,000-square-mile watershed that stretches across parts of nine upstate counties. The new graduates were honored Friday during a ceremony at the Ulster Performing Arts Center in Kingston.

The DEP Police Academy began in 2002. It was the first of its kind in the nation to provide training, experience and concentrated course work in advanced environmental laws. The new environmental protection officers (EPO), who live in 11 different counties and speak three languages, have successfully completed a total of 31 weeks of instruction. That instruction included in-depth training in counterterrorism, the environment, police science, the use of firearms and defense tactics. In addition, recruits completed courses in environmental conservation law, land navigation, fish and wildlife and watershed protection.

“I would like to congratulate the new environmental police officers who are now officially members of the police force that patrols the largest municipal water supply in the United States,” said **DEP Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**, who presided over the graduation ceremony. “Our police officers

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