



# Texas Department of Public Safety

**Information for the News Media**  
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## **Texas DPS graduates 29 from Training Academy**

Twenty-nine recruits graduated from the DPS Training Academy this morning. They were the first to graduate from the Department's Advanced Recruit School.

All 29 were already police officers when they entered the eight-week school, and all had guaranteed duty stations before they started the course. In about two weeks, the brand-new troopers will report to their duty stations, where they will spend the first six months in on-the-job training with a senior trooper.

Steven C. McCraw, director of the DPS, told the graduates that he expects them to protect and serve Texas with integrity and professionalism. "You are joining an elite group today, and I expect you to conduct yourself with the utmost integrity. Welcome to the best law enforcement agency in the United States," he said.

Graduation guest speaker Timothy Braaten, executive director of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education, said that DPS, like all law enforcement agencies, must hire quality candidates and train them well.

"Police agencies must hire for character and train for competence to ensure law enforcement excellence," Braaten said.

After gaining experience, troopers can compete for a variety of assignments including criminal investigative agents involved in organized criminal investigations, intelligence and counter terrorism, protective services; and Texas Rangers.

Anyone interested in becoming a state trooper can obtain additional information on the DPS website, [www.joindps.com](http://www.joindps.com). Potential applicants can call a toll-free number, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667), that rings directly into the recruiting office at DPS Headquarters in Austin. DPS is an equal opportunity employer.

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