

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### **ALABAMA STATE TROOPER CLASS 2005-A GRADUATES**

#### ***20 New Troopers Join Ranks of Alabama Highway Patrol***

MONTGOMERY — Twenty new Alabama state troopers were sworn into service Friday, June 17, during graduation ceremonies in Montgomery. Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage administered the oath of office to commission the new troopers. Former University of Alabama and New England Patriots football player John Hannah was guest speaker.

In a message to the graduates, Gov. Bob Riley thanked the new troopers for choosing a career in public service. “On behalf of the people of Alabama, I thank you for your commitment to law enforcement and public service. You are essential to preserving and protecting the safety of all who travel Alabama’s roadways. I congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you all a safe and productive career ahead.”

Coppage commended Alabama’s newest troopers for their achievement and welcomed them to the ranks of the Highway Patrol. “In patrolling Alabama’s roadways, you will play a vital role in protecting the public’s safety. In this first assignment and throughout your service with the Department of Public Safety, always remember that your charge as state troopers is a noble one, requiring the highest level of integrity.”

The graduating troopers completed 21 weeks of training at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma in preparation for initial duty assignments in the Highway Patrol Division. After reporting to trooper posts across Alabama, they begin 10 weeks of field training under the supervision of veteran state troopers.

Several class members were recognized for outstanding achievement among their peers. James W. Corbitt earned the Academic Award for achieving the highest overall grade point average. John D. Bogle received the Highway Response and Driving Award for demonstrating a high level of knowledge and ability in defensive and pursuit driving. The Firearms Award went to Pedro M. Dacosta for exhibiting the highest level of knowledge, skill and safety in firearms training. Fitness Awards went to Dacosta for attaining the highest level of physical fitness and Wesley S. Burgett for achieving the most improvement in physical fitness.

Jeffery D. Spivey was selected as the class’s top performer overall, receiving the Commander’s Award for exhibiting exceptional leadership, professionalism and dedication to Class 2005-A and the Department of Public Safety, while maintaining a high academic average.

Coppage thanked Riley for his commitment to improving traffic safety in Alabama through continued hiring of state troopers. He said additional classes of troopers are planned, and the department is seeking all qualified applicants.

Recruiting information is available on Public Safety’s Web site, [www.dps.state.al.us](http://www.dps.state.al.us), and will soon be available at most Highway Patrol and Driver License offices, according to Coppage. Trooper recruiter Lt. Karl Wade also may be reached at (334) 242-3428 to answer questions about the position of Alabama state trooper and other jobs within the Alabama Department of Public Safety.

A list of the members of Class 2005-A and the counties to which they are assigned follows.

*for more information contact:*

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Public Information/Education • P.O. Box 1511 • Montgomery AL 36102-1511

(334) 242-4445 • <http://www.dps.state.al.us/>

**ALABAMA STATE TROOPER CLASS 2005-A**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assigned County</u>
Antonio Andrews	Calhoun
John D. Bogle	Conecuh
Wesley S. Burgett	Clay
Ronnie A. Claiborne	Walker
James W. Corbitt	Cherokee
Pedro M. Dacosta	Wilcox
Michael W. Edwards	Tuscaloosa
Cedric A. Green	Macon
Seth M. Hannah	Russell
Steven T. James	Dallas
Robert S. Morgan	Dallas
James R. Odom	Conecuh
Moralyn Rodgers	Monroe
Dennis Ryans	Hale
Alphonsia Sommerville	Perry
Jeffery D. Spivey	Crenshaw
Charles A. Taylor	Cullman
Jesse D. Thornton	Macon
Dustin S. Todd	St. Clair
William A. Waldrop	Cullman

June 17, 2005