

# NEWS RELEASE

## Alabama Department of Public Safety

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### Seven New Troopers Graduate from Trooper Academy *First 'Accelerated' Class Joins Trooper Ranks*

SELMA — The seven members of Trooper Class 2006-C joined the ranks of Alabama state troopers during graduation ceremonies in Selma Nov. 9. The trooper recruits, the first “accelerated” trooper class to graduate from the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, were sworn into service by Department of Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage.

Each member of Trooper Class 2006-C had completed minimum standards training and was certified by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission prior to reporting to the trooper academy. While at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center they received additional training required of troopers, completing a 12-week accelerated training program versus the regular 22-week regimen, which includes minimum standards training and additional training for state troopers.

“Much was required of these new state troopers. They completed a rigorous training regimen to prepare them for the demands of their first assignment in the Highway Patrol Division. I congratulate each of them on their achievement and their choice of a career as an Alabama state trooper,” said Coppage.

Classes included pursuit driving, firearms training, crash investigation and training in Department of Public Safety policies and procedures.

Trooper Class 2006-C trained in concert with 20 members of Class 2006-B, who will graduate next week. Coppage said the addition of the new troopers would be valuable to the department’s traffic enforcement efforts. A roster of the Class 2006-C members, county and trooper post assignments to which they will report Nov. 16 follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Post</u>
Donald P. Blackmon	Lee	Opelika
Chadrick L. Butts	Talladega	Jacksonville
Darrell E. Collins	St. Clair	Birmingham
Jeffrey Harp	Coosa	Alexander City
Heath A. Heaton	Marengo	Selma
Darryl F. Phillips	Elmore	Montgomery
James K. Springfield	Blount	Birmingham

11-9-06

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