

# NEWS RELEASE

---

## Alabama Department of Public Safety

courtesy • service • protection since 1935

### **Public Safety Seeking POST-certified Applicants to Sign on as New State Troopers**

MONTGOMERY — The Department of Public Safety is recruiting certified Alabama law enforcement officers with at least two years experience for enrollment in an accelerated Alabama state trooper academy. The move is aimed at helping bolster the ranks of Alabama's state troopers by hiring experienced and knowledgeable officers, in addition to a beginning trooper class, according to Public Safety Director Col. W.M. Coppage.

Applications for trooper must be submitted to the State Personnel Department by Dec. 9, 2005.

“By hiring previously certified law enforcement officers, Public Safety is able to draw from these officers' experience, while indoctrinating them into the job of Alabama state troopers and the mission of the Department of Public Safety,” said Coppage.

Coppage said the additional troopers are desperately needed, and that Public Safety is planning to hire 200 new troopers this fiscal year.

“Improving the safety of our highways and roads is not an option, it is a necessity. That's one reason why increasing our state trooper force is such a high priority for our administration,” said Gov. Bob Riley.

Coppage said Public Safety has received numerous inquiries from law enforcement officers who want to be troopers, but who do not want to repeat courses required for certification while attending the trooper academy. “This accelerated academy allows us to tap into that pool of qualified candidates in hiring new troopers,” he said.

Coppage stressed that applicants with POST certification will not automatically qualify for the accelerated trooper training class. He said the officers will undergo the same rigorous pre-employment screening process and background investigations required of all trooper applicants. “We hold all state trooper applicants to the same high standards,” he said.

He added that every applicant must meet the rigorous standards of the State Personnel Board, and if accepted to the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center, they then must successfully complete all aspects of trooper training before they can be sworn in as Alabama state troopers.”

Applicants for the accelerated training class must be certified by the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission, have at least two years of law enforcement experience, and have demonstrated skills, knowledge and abilities, Coppage said. They also must satisfactorily complete the following:

*for more information contact:*

---

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

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

- 
- Written examination;
  - Physical agility testing;
  - Background investigation;
  - Psychological screening;
  - Polygraph; and
  - Drug screening.

Once employed, the new troopers will enroll in a specially designed curriculum that includes intensive classroom training. They will spend about 14 weeks at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma before receiving their field assignments, where they will work under the supervision of veteran troopers statewide. At the conclusion of the program, they will be sworn in as state troopers and receive their permanent assignments in the Highway Patrol Division.

Individuals interested in applying for trooper are asked to contact DPS Recruiter Lt. Karl Wade at 334-242-3428, State Personnel at 334-242-3389, or visit Public Safety's Web site, [www.dps.state.al.us](http://www.dps.state.al.us), for more information.

Nov. 22, 2005

---