

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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SUFFOLK, Va. (March 24, 2010) Suffolk Police Lieutenant Steve Patterson was among two hundred fifty-three law enforcement officers who graduated Friday from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia. The 240<sup>th</sup> Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 50 states. Included in the class were members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 20 international countries, four military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

FBI Director Robert Mueller was the principal speaker at the ceremony.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia due to the accreditation by the university of the many courses offered.

A total of 43,483 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, approximately 25,971 are still active in law enforcement work.

Suffolk Police Chief Thomas Bennett traveled to Quantico for Patterson's graduation and at that time announced to Patterson and his family that Patterson would be promoted to the rank of Captain on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Patterson is married to his wife, Pam, and they have two daughters, Meagan and Lauren.

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