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News Release

Durham Police Department

For Immediate Release: July 21, 2009

New Durham Police Officers Graduate on July 23

The Durham Police Department will hold graduation ceremonies for the BLET (Basic Law Enforcement Training) Academy #30 at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 23 at the Armory, 212 Foster Street.

The academy includes 19 new Durham police officers, two Duke University police officers and three officers who will earn BLET certification.

The academy included 26 weeks of classes, which will be followed by approximately 15 weeks on patrol with a police training officer.

The graduates include 21 males and three females and range in age from 21 to 32 years. Two graduates hold master's degrees and nine more graduated from college. Two of the new officers are bilingual. Ten of the graduates are North Carolina natives and three are from Durham.

Three of the new officers are related to current or former Durham police officers (one son, one cousin and one twin brother). One officer is a former Durham police explorer and five have prior military experience.

The new Durham officers include Terrance W. Alston, Jeffrey R. Amendola, Tyrone D. Blake, Michael S. Bonfiglio, Adam R. Bongarten, Wesley K. Brown Jr., Mark S. Feskanich, Edwin F. Genao, Ryan S. Harris, Charles E. Irwin II, Jeffrey J. Kenyon, Brian J. Simmons, Kevin A. Stewart, Brenden J. Tate, Corban D. Teague, Hillary P. Thompson, Robert J. Vernola, Jeffrey J. Wilking and Nicole L. Yopez. The Duke University officers are Crystal G. McGhee and Constantinos T. Nikas. Jason M. Nazworth, Craig T. Vardaman Sr. and Curtis Vardaman Jr. will graduate with BLET certification.

