



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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12 Diné men and women proudly join the Navajo Nation Police force



WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer honored and congratulated the Navajo Nation Police Training Academy Class 56, comprised of 12 young and determined Navajo Police Officer recruits, who received their Navajo Nation police badge during a graduation ceremony on Friday, at Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz. Each of the 12 officers successfully completed the 25-week police academy training.

The Navajo Police Academy, located in Chinle, has prepared five recruit classes that uphold respect, self-discipline, accountability, academic achievement, integrity, and professionalism. Class 56 completed challenging training in academics, physical and mental conditioning, communications, firearms, and others. The academy also integrates Diné Fundamental Law, as well as state and federal laws, into the training curriculum.

President Nez congratulated the new police officers and their families and thanked them for their commitment to serve the Navajo Nation during the graduation ceremony.

“We congratulate and commend the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety and the Navajo Police Department for supporting and preparing the new officers. Serving in the line of duty will be a physical, emotional, and mental challenge for the new officers and their loved ones. However, through prayer and the support of their families and communities, I am confident they will serve and protect our communities well. Thank you for taking on this difficult challenge and serving our people,” said President Nez.



The 12 police officer recruits took the oath of honor administered by District Court Judge Cynthia Thompson, while their loved ones participated in pinning the Navajo Police Department badge.

The 12 Navajo Nation recruits include:

- Elijah McCoy – Kayenta District
- William Smith - Dilkon District
- JC Roan – Chinle District
- Davin Watchman - Window Rock District
- Caitlin Morris – Dilkon District
- Anthony Lasiloo - Window Rock District
- Siebert Vandever – Crownpoint District
- Shane Davis - Tuba City District
- Tulley Lincoln - Window Rock District
- Kerneil Nih – Crownpoint District
- Gilbert Rogers Jr. – Kayenta District
- Kevin Charley – Chinle District

“May God keep you safe and protect each one of you as you start your new journey to protect and serve. God, give them the strength, courage, and perseverance to endure the danger, stress, and the things they will see. Bring them home safely to their loved ones after each shift. We ask for prayers for our first responders and let’s appreciate and thank them,” said Vice President Lizer.

Also, in attendance was Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar, Navajo Chief of Police Phillip Francisco, Deputy Chief of Police Daryl Noon, 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton who chairs the Law and Order Committee, and Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge.

“Our Navajo police recruits have the most distinguished training than any police force in the country. They are trained in many areas than the county, state, or federal agencies. We are thankful that the 12 police officers are giving back to the community with their bravery and courage,” said Director Delmar.

On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we commend the Navajo Police Training Academy personnel and officers, including the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse, Navajo Police Sergeant Robert Williams, Sergeant Wallace Bille, Officer Virgil Smith, and Class 56 Training Commander Lt. Donnie Lee for training the new class of police officers.

The 12 police officers will start their duty as Navajo police officers within their designated districts immediately.

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