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News Release

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Airport Authority Police Captain Completes Elite FBI National Academy Training at Quantico

Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) Police Captain Michael Smouthers has become the fifth WCAA Public Safety team member to be nominated and successfully complete the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy Training Program at the agency's facility in Quantico, Virginia.

"The Airport Authority is extremely proud of Capt. Smouthers for having been nominated and successfully completing this elite law enforcement training program," said WCAA Interim CEO Genelle M. Allen. "Given the importance of safety and security at our airports, having a leader of Capt. Smouthers' caliber among our law enforcement team is a tremendous asset to the Authority and our region."

Established in 1935, the FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.

For 10 weeks, Smouthers and his fellow Academy participants took college-level courses in the areas of law, behavioral and forensic science, counterterrorism, leadership development and communication. The program also included progressively rigorous physical training four days each week leading-up to completion of a 6.1 mile Marine Corps obstacle course.

"To be part of a program that is so rich in history was incredibly humbling for me," said Capt. Smouthers.

Smouthers also participated in a wide range of leadership and specialized training, where he had the chance to share ideas, techniques, and experiences with members of his class.

"The instruction was top-notch, but most valuable aspect of the Academy program is the network it creates among law enforcement officials worldwide," Smouthers said.

Participation in the Academy is by invitation only following a rigorous nomination process. Smouthers became one of 44,015 Academy graduates in the program's 74-year history and one of only 26,503 graduates currently active in law enforcement.

Smouthers began his law enforcement career upon joining the Wayne County Sheriff's Office in 1984. He has held posts throughout the County, including at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, until joining the Airport Police full-time as a Lieutenant in the summer of 2001. Smouthers resides in Brownstown, Michigan.

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