

**WHATCOM COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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SHERIFF

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To: Whatcom County Media Fax Group

From: Sheriff Bill Elfo 

Date: December 16, 2008

Whatcom County Sheriff's Office 2008 Reserve Law Enforcement Academy.

Graduation Date: December 20th, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bellingham Technical College in Building "G"

The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that nine new reserve deputy sheriffs and police officers will graduate from the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Reserve Academy on Saturday, December 20th at 2:00 p.m.

The graduates have undergone approximately 250 hours of training since June that consisted of patrol procedures, law, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operations, firearms and mock scenes. The graduates will now enter their respective agency's field training programs.

Reserve deputy sheriffs and police officers normally accompany and support full-time deputies and officers on patrol enhancing safety, effectiveness and efficiency. They volunteer their time and are not compensated for their services.

In times of tight budgets, it would be difficult for law enforcement to fund the Academy. The Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the community and raised nearly half of the funds needed to operate the Academy through the generosity of over 50 members of the community. Bellingham Technical College was an invaluable partner in this endeavor and ensured that classroom space and academic oversight was provided.

Sheriff Bill Elfo said: *"Reserve deputy sheriffs are an integral part of our organization's operations. Last year, they volunteered nearly 5000 hours of service to our community. Their efforts serve to make Whatcom County a safer community."*

Graduates include:

Cody Chambers, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Kelly Edge, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Troy Slayton, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
Jeff Jewell, Bellingham Police Department
John Riddle, Everson Police Department
Jerry Andriff, Everson Police Department
David Smit, Nooksack Tribal Police Department

Nate Hanstead, Lummi Law and Order
Jim Bleecker, Blaine Fire Marshal/Blaine Police Department

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