



# Gulfport Police Department News Release



Subject: Police Commander Graduates from Prestigious FBI National Academy

Date: 3/23/2015

## Narrative

Quantico, VA—Lieutenant Joshua Stone, the Professional Standards Commander for the Gulfport Police Department, joined over 200 colleagues from 49 states and 24 nations in a graduation ceremony Friday morning at the FBI Academy campus.

For the past ten weeks, Lieutenant Stone has been participating in this advanced training program involving rigorous physical exercise and courses in leadership, communication, law and other subjects. The academic programs at the FBI National Academy are accredited through a long-standing partnership with the University of Virginia.

The FBI National Academy was established in 1935 following a nation-wide movement toward increased professionalism in the field of law enforcement. What began as the FBI Police Training School has evolved into what many consider to be the most sought-after training of its kind in the world. The program has run continuously ever since its inception, with this having been the 259<sup>th</sup> Session. Participation is by invitation only via a nomination and selection process, and tuition, room, and board are provided courtesy of the FBI.

Nationwide, less than one percent of law enforcement officers will ever have the opportunity to attend this prestigious training, which is considered a desirable achievement for anybody seeking a career as a police chief. Among Gulfport's thirty-one officers, Lieutenant Stone is now one of two graduates. Chief Vincent completed the 227<sup>th</sup> Session in 2006, and prior to that, the last Gulfport officer to attend was in 1994.

Now that he is back to work, Lieutenant Stone says that he intends to apply his new education and professional network toward the development of an improved minority recruiting strategy, which has been a goal of the police department for the past few years.

Congratulations Lieutenant Stone, and welcome home!

Sergeant Thomas Woodman, Public Information Officer  
727-893-1051 (office)  
727-582-6177 (communications center)  
twoodman@mygulfport.us