



## New Jersey Department of Corrections

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### **NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS WELCOMES 128 TRAINING ACADEMY GRADUATES**

**TRENTON, NJ** – On Wednesday, February 19, the [New Jersey Department of Corrections](https://www.doc.nj.gov/) (NJDOC) welcomed Class 257 – 128 graduates of the Training Academy – into the Department’s ranks of Correctional Police Officers. The graduation ceremony was held at Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton, where family and friends of the graduates were invited to attend the special event designed to honor Class 257’s hard work and to recognize their accomplishments.

“The 128 men and women in Class 257 have demonstrated the key characteristics of being a New Jersey Correctional Police Officer: discipline, dedication, and determination,” said **Governor Phil Murphy**. “As they enter our ranks today, I commend them for their commitment to serving our state in this crucial line of work. The safety and well-being of our state’s incarcerated community is essential to their rehabilitation journey.”

“It is with great honor that we officially welcome Class 257 to the New Jersey Department of Corrections. This graduating class is joining a premier law enforcement agency that works tirelessly to protect the public and embraces the opportunity to serve with unwavering pride,” said **Commissioner Victoria L. Kuhn, Esq.** “These dedicated officers play a crucial role in fostering rehabilitation, ensuring public safety, and making a lasting positive impact on the community.”

Class 257 joins the state’s largest law enforcement agency, where more than 4,300 custody staff members are responsible for the protection of more than 12,000 incarcerated persons in nine facilities throughout the state.

During their [Academy Training](#), Class 257 completed 17 weeks of intensive academic study and physical fitness training (State Basic Course), along with two weeks of immersive, on-the-job training in nine NJDOC facilities across the state. Coursework included instruction in firearms training and safety, defensive tactics, conflict resolution and de-escalation, criminal law, gender- and trauma-informed policing, emergency medical care, and more than 50 physical training sessions.

#### **Class 257 by the Numbers:**

- 128 total graduates, including 111 men and 17 women.
- 40 graduates have earned various academic degrees – 17 graduates with associate degrees, 22 with bachelor’s degrees, and one with a master’s degree.
- 20 graduates have military service backgrounds.
  - United States Army (11)
  - United States Marine Corps (4)
  - United States Air Force (1)
  - United States Navy (2)
  - United State Coast Guard (2)

- 56 graduates come from families with a tradition of law enforcement service.
- Graduates hail from 19 New Jersey counties, as well as two counties in Pennsylvania, one in New York and one in Delaware:

***New Jersey***

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| ○ Atlantic (5)   | ○ Mercer (10)    |
| ○ Bergen (10)    | ○ Middlesex (15) |
| ○ Burlington (3) | ○ Monmouth (5)   |
| ○ Camden (6)     | ○ Morris (1)     |
| ○ Cape May (2)   | ○ Ocean (8)      |
| ○ Cumberland (8) | ○ Passaic (10)   |
| ○ Essex (17)     | ○ Somerset (1)   |
| ○ Gloucester (3) | ○ Union (12)     |
| ○ Hunterdon (5)  | ○ Warren (1)     |
| ○ Hudson (5)     |                  |

Further recognizing exemplary efforts, several graduates of Class 257 and one of NJDOC's instructors were named award recipients at this year's graduation ceremony:

**Harry Ellifritz Leadership Award**

- Ofc. Peter Nolan

**Stone/Ratajczak Professionalism Award**

- Ofc. Ashley Dohm

**Police Training Commissioner Merit Award**

- Ofc. Hector Crespo
- Ofc. James Forrest
- Ofc. Ivan Mendez
- Ofc. Brian Sprague

**Wayne Manstream Physical Fitness Award**

- Ofc. James Forrest

**Commissioner's Physical Fitness Award for Most Improved**

- Ofc. Ashley Dohm

**Fred Baker Memorial Academic Award**

- Ofc. Jakob Hrymoc

**Michael R. Pofahl Memorial Firearms Award**

- Ofc. Darren Kardos

"Your career in public safety is one of the most rewarding in law enforcement, knowing that your work is contributing to safer communities and meaningful rehabilitation throughout New Jersey," Commissioner Kuhn said.

At NJDOC, Correctional Police Officers may serve in various roles and can pursue a variety of unique [career paths](#) within the Department, including positions within the nine NJDOC facilities, along with a variety of specialty tracks – including Special Operations Group, which specializes in K-9s, designated marksmen, and critical incident negotiation; Special Investigations Division, which specializes in special victims, fugitive and corrections intelligence; and the Office of Emergency Management, which provides advanced security for high-profile events; and more.

As of July 1, 2024, starting [salaries for NJDOC Correctional Police Officers](#) now begin at approximately \$51,400 upon graduation from the Academy. Under the new contract, salaries for Senior Correctional Police Officers now range from \$70,500 up to \$123,000 annually.

In addition to a competitive salary, NJDOC Correctional Police Officers can also earn a wide variety of benefits – paid time off, excellent health benefits (including dental and vision), education reimbursement, maternity and family leave, disability benefits and leave, military benefits and leave, retirement benefits, and more.

Are you or someone you know looking to join New Jersey’s largest law enforcement agency? NJDOC is actively recruiting dedicated, highly motivated, purpose-driven individuals to become Correctional Police Officers, adding to the Department’s growing force of elite corrections professionals. Class 258 begins training in March 2025, and applications for Class 259, which starts in September 2025, are being accepted. For those interested in learning more about a career at NJDOC, visit [JoinNJDOC.gov](https://www.njdoc.gov/join) today for detailed information and to start the application process online.

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**About New Jersey Department of Corrections (NJDOC)**

The mission of NJDOC is to advance public safety and promote successful reintegration in a dignified, safe, secure, rehabilitative, and gender-informed environment, supported by a professional, trained, and diverse workforce, enhanced by community engagement. For more information, visit: [NJDOC.gov](https://www.njdoc.gov).