



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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SALEM POLICE OFFICER GRADUATES FROM PRESTIGIOUS FORENSICS ACADEMY

Salem Senior Police Officer Robert S. Akers recently graduated from the 76th session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond, earning his diploma on November 13. The Forensic Science Academy was established in 1974 to provide advanced training to qualified crime scene search officers across the state.

During the 9 week session, law enforcement personnel learn to properly recognize, document, collect, and preserve items of physical evidence that are found at crime scenes and later examined in the laboratory. The students also become familiar with the capabilities of the modern forensic lab in the examination of the broad spectrum of materials which can be collected as evidence in criminal cases.

The course provides students with the necessary background information and practical application techniques which, when coupled with the students previous experience, permit maximum utilization of forensic science in the apprehension and prosecution of criminals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

“We are all proud of Scott for this accomplishment. I know firsthand this is a demanding school, and I know Scott will serve the citizens of Salem well with the knowledge he has gained,” says Salem Police Chief, Jeff Dudley.

The Academy is held just two times a year and the class size at each session is limited to just 10 students in order to provide the maximum amount of learning and hands-on experiences. Currently, three other officers at the Salem Police Department are graduates of the Forensic Academy; Chief Jeff Dudley (19th session) Sergeant Tim Carroll (50th session) and Sergeant Todd Clayton (63rd session).

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