



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian graduates 37th Middlesex Sheriff's Office Basic Training Academy

Lowell – The Middlesex Sheriff's Office celebrated the graduation of 48 new corrections officers in a ceremony held on Thursday, Dec. 18 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium in Lowell, Mass.

"The graduates of the 37th Basic Training Academy represent the best and brightest from a group of 886 individuals who expressed interest in joining the Middlesex Sheriff's Office. They passed a rigorous academy acceptance process, including an entrance exam, physical fitness test, interviews and graduated today after a grueling nine week academy, where these 48 thrived," said Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "These men and women have joined one of the oldest, storied law enforcement agencies in the country. I am proud to have them on our team as together we write a new chapter at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office."

"I was honored to be a part of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Basic Training Academy graduation today," said Congresswoman Niki Tsongas (MA-3), who offered the keynote address. "I extend my thanks and congratulations to Sheriff Koutoujian and to the entire graduating class. Today was an opportunity for me to express gratitude for the challenging but critical job accomplished by so many here at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office, every single day. These men and women are a vital part of the region's public safety network and we are all grateful for their tireless efforts."

Today's graduation marked the third during Sheriff Koutoujian's four-year tenure, with 143 academy-trained officers joining the ranks of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office in that time. Prior to 2012, the last academy was held in 2008.

Of today's 48 graduates, 15 have served in the military and six are women. Marking a historical first for the MSO's Basic Training Academy, Class President Kristin Wesson is a female, as is Class Secretary Ashley Kostka.

"Seeing the large number of veterans in this graduating class was reflective of the tradition of service we see so often here in Middlesex County and they deserve commendation for continuing to serve others in this new role," said Congresswoman Tsongas. "I was also especially encouraged to see multiple female cadets, and the first ever female Class President. Congratulations again to the entire graduating class and their families."

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Those who graduated Thursday received nine weeks of classroom and practical training focused on interpersonal communications, corrections and criminal justice systems, transportation procedures, defensive tactics, firearms and first responder training, among other areas. Graduates had to successfully pass both classroom and physical fitness tests and worked one shift a weekend inside the Middlesex House of Correction and Jail prior to today's ceremony.

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