

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **The Southern Pines Police Department Announces Graduation from the FBI National Academy Captain Robert Heaton**

On June 5, 2025, two-hundred and thirty-nine law enforcement officers graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The 294th session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 48 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 14 countries, six military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations. Captain Robert Heaton of the Southern Pines Police Department was among the graduates of the 294th Session of the FBI National Academy.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions. FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino delivered remarks at the ceremony. Class spokesperson Brandt “BT” Carmical with the Camp Robinson Police Department in North Little Rock, Arkansas, represented the graduating officers.

FBI Academy instructors, special agents, and other staff with advanced degrees provide the training; many instructors are recognized internationally in their fields. Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia, which accredits all the National Academy courses offered.

A total of 56,180 graduates have completed the FBI National Academy since it began in 1935. The National Academy is held at the FBI Training Academy in Quantico, the same facility where the FBI trains its new special agents and intelligence analysts.

Chief Nick Polidori offered the following comments congratulating Captain Robert Heaton:

*“I am proud of Captain Heaton’s prestigious accomplishment graduating from the 294<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy. Captain Heaton joins the very few law enforcement leaders nationwide who have been fortunate enough to be selected for this great opportunity. Captain Heaton began his law enforcement career 25 years ago. During his tenure he has worked in various assignments, to include leadership roles. Captain Heaton has embraced the value of education and advanced training opportunities in our profession, and he recognizes the need to evolve as a leader for the Southern Pines Police Department and our community. The Southern Pines Police Department is thankful for his resolve and ongoing commitment to the employees at the agency and the profession.”*

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