



# Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: July 25, 2002

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## WYOMING LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

DOUGLAS - Attorney General Hoke MacMillan and Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy Director Dan Zivkovich announced today that on August 9, 2002, the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy will graduate its 100th Peace Officer Basic Training class in Douglas. To honor this historic occasion, the Law Enforcement Academy will host an open house from noon until 3:00 p.m., including tours, demonstrations, displays, and refreshments. The public is invited to attend.

Attorney General MacMillan commented, "Wyoming can be proud of its law enforcement academy. It is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility. The training is excellent, and the staff is outstanding. I am proud of the work they do to prepare Wyoming's officers for the difficult job of serving the public and protecting us from those who would do us harm. I urge citizens to take advantage of this opportunity to tour the facility."

Director Dan Zivkovich added, "The Academy's hectic schedule seldom gives us the opportunity or the luxury of opening the facility to the public, but we look forward to showcasing the Academy, our training, and our staff during this open house. Our staff and training are second to none, and our facility has been used as a model for others around the country. This is an excellent opportunity for the public to tour the facility, ask questions, and learn about what we do everyday."

The Law Enforcement Academy began as a part-time operation in 1958, then based in Laramie and using University of Wyoming facilities. In 1973, the Academy became full-time and moved to the State Fair grounds in Douglas. In 1984, the Academy moved to its own facility, which has classrooms, a computer laboratory, a crime lab, firearms ranges, an emergency vehicle operations course, a gymnasium, a dormitory, and a cafeteria.

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In 1973, the Academy 's focus was on peace officer training only. Five classes were graduated that year. Today, the Law Enforcement Academy also provides basic and advanced training for Wyoming's detention officers, communications officers, and coroners. Nine basic training classes are graduated annually. Since its inception in 1958, the Academy has graduated 3,984 officers from the Peace Officer Basic Course, of which 3,141 were in the 100 classes that were graduated since the Academy moved to Douglas.

The Academy also has a Pre-Service program that allows qualified students to sponsor themselves to attend peace officer, detention officer, or communications officer basic training. That program has trained 127 students.

In 2001, 244 new officers received over 69,000 hours of basic training and 950 experienced officers received 23,900 hours of advanced training at the Academy. In addition, many federal, state, and local government agencies use the Academy's state-of-the-art facilities to conduct their own, separate training.

The open house will include demonstrations of the Range 2000 computerized decision-making scenarios and other law enforcement training tools. Also on display will be the Academy's SkidCar, which is used to simulate high-speed conditions during emergency vehicle operations training. Staff members will be on hand to answer questions and give tours. For more information regarding the open house or Academy programs, please call 307-358-3617.