



SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 24, 2012

SGT. DEREK WEEKS GRADUATES FROM PRESTIGIOUS FORENSICS ACADEMY

Salem Police Sergeant Derek M. Weeks has graduated from the 81st session of the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond. The academy, which was established in 1974, provides advanced training to qualified crime scene search officers across the state. During the intense nine week program, law enforcement personnel learn to properly recognize, document, collect, and preserve items of physical evidence found at crime scenes for laboratory examination.

“We are very proud of Derek for this accomplishment,” says Jeff Dudley, Salem Police Chief. “I know being away from his family for this amount of time was hard, but I also know firsthand that the knowledge Derek has gained will greatly benefit the citizens of Salem.”

Weeks and his fellow students became familiar with the capabilities of the modern forensic laboratory in the examination of the broad spectrum of materials which can be collected as evidence in criminal cases. The course work provides the officers with the necessary background information and practical application techniques needed to maximize the utilization of forensic science when it comes to the apprehension and prosecution of criminals in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The prestigious Academy normally holds just two sessions per year which limits the number of students to 12, in order to maximize learning and hands-on experiences. Weeks completed his training and graduated on April 13.

Currently, three other officers at the Salem Police Department are graduates of the Forensic Academy - Chief Jeff Dudley (19th session), Lieutenant Todd Clayton (63rd session) and Senior Police Officer Robert S. Akers (76th session).

Contact:

Chief Jeff Dudley
City of Salem Police Dept.
(540)375-3010 office
jdudley@salemva.gov

Mike Stevens
City of Salem
Communications Director
(540)375-4112 office
(540)353-2041 cell
mstevens@salemva.gov