



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release
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Sheriff's Captain Dawn Ballas Among FBI National Academy Graduates

Pueblo, CO: Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Administrative Captain Dawn Ballas is a 20-year veteran of the agency and perhaps best known as a champion of causes. From Special Olympics to Peer Support, her compassion, civic engagement, and leadership skills have shone bright in the halls of PCSO for many years. In March of this year, Captain Ballas took on a whole new challenge when she was accepted to the 282nd session of the FBI National Academy.

Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor, a 2009 (237th Session) FBI National Academy graduate himself, said his nomination of Captain Ballas was an easy one. "The academy is historic, but it's also modern in its approach to leadership. Less than 1% of officers nationwide have attended so it's an honor to be selected and at the same time there is a responsibility to get the most out of what you learn." Sheriff Taylor added that he was anxious to see what concepts the captain will bring back with her. "She is a powerhouse. I am confident we will see the influence of her 10-week training resonating throughout the agency within a week or two of her return from Quantico."

The final challenge of the fitness training is a grueling 6.1-mile run, over walls, through creeks and windows, across rock faces and under barbed wire in muddy water. Students who complete this difficult test receive an actual yellow brick to memorialize their achievement and a hand full of PCSO command staff proudly display them in their office. Captain Ballas has already boasted that she too now has a brick of her own.

Since 1935 the academy has graduated 53,435 students, a cross-section of federal, military, and local law enforcement professionals from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and other law enforcement entities from all over the world. Classes are held in the same facility where the FBI trains special agents and intelligence analysts. Focused on advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training, participants must have proven records as professionals within their agency and must come highly recommended by their executive.

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