

Montana Trooper

Montana Highway Patrol 51st Advanced Traffic Law Enforcement Lateral Course Graduation Ceremony September 1, 2011

The pinning of the troopers' badges is a special part of their graduation ceremony. The Montana Highway Patrol badge signifies many things. The seven points of the badge represent the seven core values: Character, Loyalty, Knowledge, Honor, Integrity, Courtesy, and Judgment.

The badges were polished by current troopers to ensure the badges given were un-tarnished.

It is now these troopers' responsibility to ensure the badge and the organization remains polished and un-tarnished.

Each trooper selected a special person or people to pin on his badge.

KEVIN J. COOK



Pinning on Kevin's badge were his sons, Jasper and Elias, along with his parents, Jane and Scott Cook, and his brother, Aaron Cook.

Kevin's hometown is Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He chose the Patrol because of the professionalism and respect the Patrol exudes and for the opportunity to effect positive change in the lives of the people of Montana through enforcement and education.

Before joining the Patrol, he was a



Montana Highway Patrol 51st Recruit Academy. Graduation Thursday, September 1, 2011. First row (left to right): Trooper Lawrence F. Adorni (MLEA Trainer), Kevin J. Cook, Steven C. Spurr, James D. McMartin, Adam R. Gane, Michael W. Jensen, and Sgt. Alex Betz. Second row (left to right): Colonel Michael T. Tooley and Lt. Col. Butch Huseby

Game Warden with the Montana Fish Wildlife, and Parks.

He reported the Academy classes were very enjoyable and informative. He especially enjoyed firearms, ARIDE, and although confusing at times, he felt Crash Investigation was incredibly beneficial. Kevin's memorable Academy events include the long hours polishing shoes and brass, laughing with Adam Gane during the photo session, and watching Steve Spurr turn green while

riding with him on the PVOC driving course.

Kevin thanked his parents for their support and guidance, his fellow classmates for their camaraderie, his children for their patience and understanding, and the camp commanders and MHP staff for their knowledge, advice, and leadership.

Although he thoroughly enjoyed his time at the Academy, he was looking

more ►

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continued

forward to hitting the road and getting to work even more.

Kevin's initial station assignment was Seeley Lake, and he is MHP 265.

ADAM R. GANE



Adam gave the honor of pinning on his badge to Mandi Gane, his wife. He reported Mandi supported his desires and efforts to become a trooper, as well as provided inspiration and encouragement throughout this process. Adam said without her, he would not be where he is today.

Loveland, Colorado, is Adam's hometown. Before moving to Montana, he served for just over five years as a police officer for Firestone Police Department in Firestone, Colorado.

Adam was seeking an agency with a reputation for professionalism and an agency he could take pride in being a part of. He enjoys working traffic enforcement and because the Patrol's primary focus is traffic enforcement, he felt he and the Patrol would be a good fit for each other.

His favorite class was firearms because the instruction was great and getting paid to shoot someone else's ammunition is always a good thing. A memorable event was watching Steve Spurr "bite the dust" at the PVOC driving track after Steve jumped off a moving truck to pick up something that fell. Adam also said he was glad the eight weeks were over.

He wanted to especially thank his wife for being supportive of his desire to continue his career.

Adam is MHP 210, and he was initially stationed in Polson.

MICHAEL W. JENSEN



Jessica Jensen had the privilege of pinning on her husband's badge. Mike selected her because she is the single most important person in his life. He reported this transition had been very difficult for her, but she remained very supportive throughout the entire process because she knew this position was a dream of his.

Mike's hometown is Chester, Montana. He was most recently a police officer with the Montana State University Police Department in Bozeman.

He chose the Patrol because he enjoys working traffic enforcement. In addition, he has witnessed the Patrol as being the most respected agency in law enforcement.

Special thanks from Mike went to the Camp Commanders and instructors for all their help over the past eight weeks, and his parents, Carmen and Julane Jensen, for everything they have done for him. He reported he would not be the person he is today without great parents.

Mike said the classes were extremely helpful in shaping the group into great troopers. His favorite quote is from Bill Westfall. The quote was shared by Lt. Col. Huseby during the Ethics class: "If you do your job properly, there is nothing more noble you can do with your life."

Valier was Mike's initial station assignment, and he is MHP 199.

JAMES D. MCMARTIN

The honor of pinning on JD's badge went to his wife, Diana. He reported she is quite simply the center of his little universe. She has supported and encouraged him through-

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out this major life change. His hometown is Walnut Creek, California. James and his family decided to simplify their lives and move to a place that had mountains, four seasons, and friendly people. Montana was the family's choice. As he began his search for a professional agency in which he could be a member, he

looked into the Montana Highway Patrol and said there was no looking back.

Prior to joining the Patrol, he worked in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Titusville Police Department in Florida.

JD thanked his wife for her loving support, as well as the instructors and Camp Commanders for their instruction and counsel. JD sends special thanks to his children, Kylie and Liam, for the support and encouragement during this process.

The courses presented at the Academy were an obvious good choice. He thoroughly enjoyed, as he always does, the firearms and defensive tactics. He said he really needed the rest, and he gained valuable new skill sets. He has said the most memorable Academy event was the first day.

JD said he was truly glad to be finished with the Academy, and he was looking forward to starting in the field.

Bozeman was his initial station assignment, and he is MHP 254.

STEVEN C. SPURR

Steve said his wife, Whitney, and daughter, Cooper, are the two most important people in his life, and that is why he wanted them to pin on his badge.

He chose the Patrol because he wanted to work for the

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Final Standing – with Initial Station Assignments

Trooper	Initial Station Assignment	Badge
Michael W. Jensen	Valier	199
Adam R. Gane	Polson	210
Kevin J. Cook	Seeley Lake	265
Steven C. Spurr	Plains	351
James D. McMartin	Bozeman	254



best agency in the state, as well as the Patrol's professionalism. Because he loves working traffic, he knew he would be able to do just that with the Patrol.

Steve has previous law enforcement experience with Kouts Police Department and Hebron Police Department in Indiana. He also worked in Montana for the Sanders County Sheriff's Office.

iff's Office.

He thanked his wife, Whitney, for her support, his mother and father-in-law, Margo and Marvin Tanner, the staff, and his classmates, as they all worked together to achieve the same goal.

Steve said all the classes were equally important and without them there wouldn't be the foundation to build their careers.

Plains was Steve's initial station assignment, and he is MHP 351. □